JDV opens House gates for impeachment of Davide

Story on PAGE A2

Stop, look, listen but first look for Ped Xing

AKALA KO TAGA-F4!

By Tarra Quismundo

WHO is Ped Xing?

He is obviously a friend to people who pound the streets of the metropolis.

But strangely, others don't have the

STOP/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Malacañang may lift state of rebellion soon

By Gil Cabacungan, Cynthia Balana and Martin Marfil

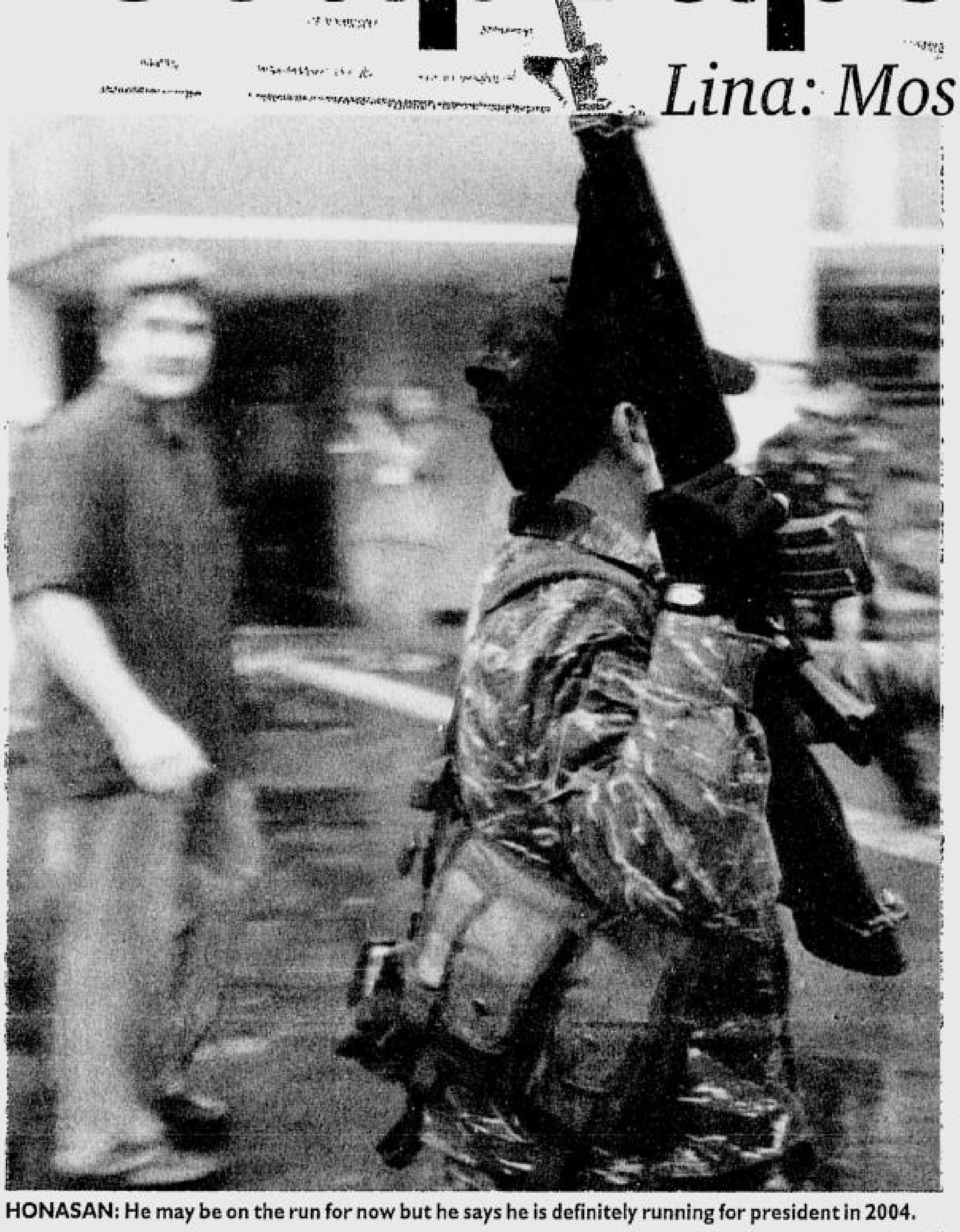
MALACAÑANG yesterday announced that it would lift the 8-day-old state of rebellion soon, possibly within the month.

But the political opposition in the House joined their counterparts in the Senate in questioning the constitutional

MALACAÑANG/ A13

Coup raps vs Gringo

Lina: Most damning is a rebel's confession



HONASAN: He may be on the run for now but he says he is definitely running for president in 2004.
VAL HANDUMON

By Philip C. Tubeza

ARMED with the testimony of a "star witness" who was allegedly present when Sen. Gregorio Honasan led a group of junior officers in a "blood compact" to seal their plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, the government filed coup d'etat charges against the senator yesterday.

The crime of coup d'etat is a nonbailable offense and carries a maximum penalty of 40 years' imprisonment. Ironically, the crime was included in the Revised Penal Code after the 1989 coup attempt that Honasan led against the Aquino administration.

Also included in the charge sheet filed with the Department of Justice were six people and more than 1,000 other John and Jane Does, mostly members of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), a faction of the Guardians that Honasan leads.

The six were Capt. Felix Turingan, Honasan's staff member George Duldulao, retired Col. Ernesto Macahiya of Bay, Laguna, a Colonel Briones, a retired Colonel Lazo and Lina Reyes.

The government star witness is Maj. Perfecto Ragil, a "communications expert" of the Presidential Security Group. He was present when Honasan met with Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and other rebel officers in San Juan, Metro Manila, to plot the coup, according to Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

In his affidavit, Ragil said Honasan told the officers at the meeting in June that "we must use force, violence and armed struggle to achieve the vision of the NRP." Honasan was referring to his National Recovery Program, which the mutineers in Makati used as their "bible."

Lina said it was not a simple mutiny, but a well-organized attempt to overthrow the government.

COUP/ A16

LINA: Not a simple mutiny but a well-organized attempt to overthrow Macapagal administration. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Star witness' task: Cut Palace phones

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CHIEF accuser of alleged coup plotter Sen. Gregorio Honasan is the resident "communications expert" of the Presidential Security Group.

The expertise of Maj. Perfecto Ragil prompted rogue soldiers to invite him to join their plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former military intelligence chief, said.

"His position was very critical," Corpus told the INQUIRER. "He could monitor and intercept all communications between the President and those outside Malacañang."

True enough, Ragil claimed in his affidavit that his task in the foiled power grab was to switch off the PABX telephone system of the entire Malacañang complex once renegade soldiers stormed the area.

STAR/ A16

Honasan: Charges fabricated, false

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday condemned the filing of charges against him and linked this move to his earlier declaration to run for president in 2004.

In a statement and phone patch interview with Senate reporters, Honasan said he was the latest presidential aspirant to be harassed by the Macapagal administration.

"The filing of charges, based on fabricated evidence and false testimonies, is another demonstration of (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) grand plan to remove all roadblocks to advance her naked ambition to extend her term beyond 2004," the former Army colonel said in a statement.

"One by one, all the presidential contenders are being neutralized using the instruments of the State."

In a phone patch with reporters in the Senate, Honasan said he noticed that this happened to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, businessman Eduardo Cojuangco and former Education Secretary Raul Roco. "Now it's my turn."

He said that he would still run for president, probably as an independent, and would have the controversial National Recovery Program as his platform of government.

Explaining his continued nonappearance at the Senate, the senator said he had not gone into hiding.

HONASAN/ A15

Ex-Isafp chief admits Mawanay big mistake

CORPUS: Best to quit while ahead.
ROGER MARGALLO

By Fe Zamora
Inq7.net

CUSTODIAN of military intelligence for over two and a half years, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus kept score of his performance in the simplest way: More hits than misses.

Meeting the media on Sunday, for the first time since he resigned as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the wake of the Oakwood mutiny, Corpus cast a long look over his performance as possibly the country's most controversial military intelligence chief.

He conceded he had "misjudged" the case of restaurant owner Kim Wong, and "miscalculated" in the case of confessed computer hacker Ador Mawanay, but he said his recent success in aborting a coup attempt should make up for the shortcomings.

It's "best to quit" while one is ahead, he said. "I have prevented a coup. I think I have done something good for the government. Why wait to commit another mistake? In this job, it's easy to commit a

EX-ISAFP/ A16

Business groups rally round GMA

By Gil Cabacungan and Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINES' leading business groups have agreed to rally behind President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring confidence back to the economy, following the July 27 military rebellion in the heart of the country's financial district.

Industrialist Raul Concepcion said the business associations that attended yesterday's emergency meeting at the Tower Club in Makati City have decided to move forward and work with the President to mend the country's image, especially before foreign investors.

But the Makati Business Club, the object of the President's ire last Thursday, denied it was part of yesterday's meeting.

An irate Guillermo Luz, executive director of the MBC, wrote a letter to the INQUIRER questioning yesterday's article which said that "the leaders of the business community, including the Makati Business Club, will hold an emer-

BUSINESS/ A16

Ninez cries harassment over arrest

OLIVARES says early morning arrest definitely political. ERIK ARAZAS

THE PUBLISHER of a hard-hitting opposition paper yesterday cried political harassment after she was arrested in connection with a libel case filed by the personal lawyer of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Armed with two arrest warrants, four Manila policemen arrested Ninez Cacho-Olivares, who is also the editor in chief of The Daily Tribune, at her seaside home in Parañaque City at 6:30 a.m. The arresting officers brought her to the headquarters of the Western Police District in Manila.

Judge Winlove Dumayas of the Makati Regional Trial Court issued the two arrest warrants last week after the Department of Justice found probable cause in the libel complaint filed by F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, managing partner of the Villaraza and Angcangco

NINEZ/ A6

MILF chair and founder Salamat believed dead

But father-in-law insists Moro rebel leader still alive

By Nico A. Alconaba
Chief, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Is Salamat Hashim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, dead?

A top official of a government agency said he had received information that the 61-year-old Salamat died of acute ulcers on July 13 and was buried the next day in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

But Salamat's father-in-law, Mummar Biston, said last night that the Moro leader was alive. "*Huwag namang patayin. Kawawa naman* [Please don't kill him. It's a pity]," Biston said.

Biston, a teacher in a madrasah in Glan, Sarangani, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Salamat's blood pressure shot up in early July but he has since recovered.

He said Salamat even called his wife a few days ago.

The government official, who declined to be identified but is known for his anti-MILF stance, said an Arab missionary, who had access to Salamat and other sources in the MILF, gave the information to him.

Earlier, high-ranking leaders of the MILF refused to confirm or deny the report that Salamat had died.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the report had been "circulating in the past few days," but he refused to further comment.

"To clarify all these issues, we will be coming up with an official declaration on Wednesday or Thursday," said Kabalu.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, also refused to confirm or deny the report.

"Let's talk about it next time," Jaafar told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. He said there were "more important things to talk about like the peace process."

Asked why the MILF refuses to come out with a statement on the report, Jaafar said the organization had other plans. "Everything we do we discuss first in the Central Committee," he said.

Again pressed for an answer, Jaafar said: "As long as the organization is intact ... we will all be

MILF/ A6

SALAMAT: Did he die without seeing the dawn? AFP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/05/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Impeach-Davide bid gains in House

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint filed against the chief justice of the Supreme Court and several other justices has started to roll in the House.

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday referred to the House committee on rules the verified complaint for impeachment filed by ousted President Joseph Estrada against Chief Justice Hilario Davide and seven other associate justices of the Supreme Court.

In a memorandum, De Venecia ordered Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, who is also chair of the rules committee, to include the impeachment complaint in the House's Order of Business.

Under House rules, De Venecia had 10 session days to refer the verified complaint for impeachment to the proper committee.

The speaker's action came on the seventh session day. Congress adjourned on June 5 and reopened for its third regular session on July 28.

The complaint was filed by Estrada, who charged that his ouster in January 2001 was illegal, having been papered over by the Supreme Court which ruled in favor of his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, in violation of the Constitution.

Estrada had also questioned the justices' participation in Edsa II, the popular uprising that drove him from Malacañang.

The impeachment complaint was filed with the Office of the Secretary General of the House and was referred to the Office of the Speaker, together with Resolutions of Endorsement signed by opposition congressmen led by Rolex Suplico of Iloilo City, Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan and Didagen Dilangalen of Maguindanao.

It charged Davide and other justices with culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of the public trust and violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The committee on rules has three session days to include the speaker's referral to the Order of Business. The matter will then be read in the plenary as part of the Order of Business before it is referred to the appropriate committee or committees that will handle the case.

A vote by a third of the House would then be needed to impeach the justices, after which the case would be elevated to the Senate for trial, which could result in their removal from office. *With an AFP report*

DAVIDE

Senate passes new vehicle tax measure

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE yesterday approved on third and final reading a measure imposing a progressive excise tax on certain automobiles.

With a vote of 17-0, the chamber approved Senate Bill 2517, known as an Act Rationalizing the Excise Tax on Automobiles by amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1987.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III abstained.

The bill was authored by Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the committee on trade and commerce, and co-authored by members of the committee on ways means.

It seeks to amend Section 1 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, which taxes automobiles based on two factors: engine displacement and fuel type.

Recto said the current excise tax system on automobiles was too narrow that only 25 percent of all vehicle sales were taxed.

"It exempts vehicles with 10 or more seats (sport utility vehicles, Asian utility vehicles and passenger vans) and pickups," Recto said.

He said the present system was made more complicated by the 10-seater rule, which exempts a 10-seat vehicle from paying the tax.

"To qualify for exemptions (in the present system), car assemblers successfully found a loophole in the law by adding jump seats. The latest edition of the Honda CRV, for example, is tax-exempt when it is a fact it cannot accommodate 10 kids," said Recto.

To level the playing field, the measure would allow an ad valorem tax to be levied solely on the net manufacturer's or importer's selling price, net of the value added tax, and other duties, said Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Drilon said that under the new measure, the tax would be based on the net manufacturer's price ranging from two percent to 150 percent of the automobile's value or selling price.

Thus, vehicles worth P600,000 and below such as the Tamaraw FX would have a two percent ad valorem tax; while those costing P600,000 to P1 million would be taxed P12,000 plus 20 percent of its value.

A car worth over P1 million to P2 million would be taxed P92,000 plus 100 percent of its value, while an automobile worth P2 million and above would be taxed P1.09 million plus 150 percent of its value.

MUSIC FOR FILIPINO SOULS

Amid the turmoil in their home country and their adopted one, these Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong learn to play the violin at a park they frequent on their days off. Some 150,000 Filipinos work as domestics in Hong Kong, which has made life hard for them by slicing their pay and charging their employers an added tax.

AFP

'We were responsible for saving Republic'

IT'S Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus' turn to gripe.

In an interview Sunday night, his first since quitting as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on Tuesday last week, Corpus lamented lawmakers' grilling of top defense, military and security officials during inquiries over the short-lived July 27 mutiny.

"We were responsible for saving the Republic, yet we are the ones being investigated. It's very ironic," Corpus said.

The results would have been "devastating," he pointed out, had the military not detected troops moving from the countryside, stopped the movements and raised the alert days before the mutiny.

Senators and congressmen had summoned National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP chief Gen. Narciso Abaya, among other officials, to separate inquiries.

In hearings televised nationwide last Thursday and Friday, the officials found themselves the subject of intense questioning, instead of the five mutiny leaders who were barred from attending the proceedings due to "serious threats on their lives."

The mutiny leaders are confined at Isafp headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

In his irrevocable resignation submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Corpus said restiveness in the military would not calm down if he kept his post. The mutineers had demanded his ouster for allegedly masterminding the deadly Davao bombings just over four months ago.

Meanwhile, the Magdalo mutineers would not be allowed to testify in public hearings on their failed revolt, the government said yesterday.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang would also ask Congress to suspend its public inquiry. He said the legislators should allow the independent commission set up by the government to carry out the probe.

Lawyers have accused the government of silencing the alleged ringleaders by blocking their testimony before the congressional hearings.

Also yesterday, Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Senate would proceed with its inquiry and require officials to produce the mutiny leaders in the chamber. *TJ Burgonio*

GMA doesn't owe me, says Reyes

By Jerome Aning

"IT was the people who placed her in power, not I."

With these words, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes belied the popular notion that President Macapagal-Arroyo could not fire him because she owed him for supporting her during Edsa II.

"She is not beholden to me. The people put her there. I'm just part of the people," Reyes told members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines at the Manila Diamond Hotel yesterday.

The President, Reyes said, "can get rid of me anytime. I'm not indispensable. Many others can do this job."

At Edsa II, Reyes, then the Armed Forces chief of staff, withdrew his support from President Joseph Estrada, urging the latter to quit in the wake of charges he had received gambling payola and in the face of a mounting popular revolt. Ms Macapagal was the vice president at the time.

"I have never given anybody the impression that the President owes me anything," Reyes said.

Last week, in a forum of the Manila Overseas Press Club, the President stood pat on her decision not to relieve Reyes, as demanded by the junior military officers who staged a mutiny in Makati City.

"They want Angie Reyes to resign so that they can weaken me. I will not fall into their trap," the President had said.

Mutineers, you've got mail

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—"Dear Sonny" letters have been circulating on the Internet since the July 27 Makati mutiny, many of them addressed to Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and offering words of consolation, but some are bitter, even heckling.

One letter, read on local radio while President Macapagal-Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address last week, might have been funny, if it weren't so snappish.

"*Nawa'y maigi ang iyong kalagayan d'yan sa* stockade. *Magpahinga ka muna bago ka humarap sa* court martial. *Hindi bale nang litisin ka, nakapag-*stay *ka naman sa* Oakwood, *samantalang kami, pinaasa mong walang pasok ngayon.* KJ (I hope your condition in the stockade is good. You should rest before you face a court martial. You will be grilled, but that's okay; you got to stay in Oakwood, whereas you made us students hope classes would be suspended today. Bummer)!" It was signed, "Ang iyong tagahanga (Your fan)."

The writer admired the rebels' courage for revealing "the government's rottenness," but disapproved of how the message was delivered. Planting bombs was un-cool, the fan said, and suggested that the Magdalo group open a boutique selling fatigues and armbands instead.

As for the allegation that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes sold firearms to enemies of the state, the writer argued it was no big deal; Filipinos sold all sorts of things all the time for extra income.

Sore at having missed a movie date on that fateful day, the letter sender complained that the coup was "too cinematic":

"*Sino ba'ng* scriptwriter *ninyo? Tsugiin (Who was your scriptwriter? Fire him)!*"

But the fan emerged intermittently from behind the critic, and finally advised Trillanes to switch to a movie career.

Replies to this letter, also widely circulated, came from 1997 graduates of the University of the Philippines.

"People like you make me puke!" wrote Habs Clemente.

"I don't know these (rebels)," wrote Chill Cabrillo, "but I believe in their cause."

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Senate revives report adverse to Lacson

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE CONTROVERSIAL Senate Committee Report No. 66 was formally resurrected by Administration Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday.

In his sponsorship speech, Barbers asked senators to adopt the report, which recommends the indictment of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and three Police generals for high crimes such as kidnap-for-ransom, drug trafficking, smuggling and summary execution.

Barbers challenged the upper chamber to act on the report by "letting the chips fall where they may."

He said the report, now known as Committee Report No. 237, begged the question: "Are we going to close our eyes while the threat of narco-politics looms large on the horizon, or are we going to act and win the war against illegal drugs?"

But amid opposition from Lacson, who moved that the report be recommitted to the joint committees, the Senate suspended voting on the report.

Senate President Franklin Drilon declared that the "chair suspends consideration of the report" to allow the chairs of the joint committees to address Lacson's objections.

Lacson claimed the report's revival was part of a demolition job on oppositionists by the administration bloc. He refused to interpellate Barbers, however, and instead delivered his rebuttal to the accusations.

Barbers defended the report, saying it was the product of nine public hearings in 2001.

The hearings were conducted based on Senate Resolution No. 49, among others, which sought to inquire, in aid of legislation, about the veracity of claims that ranking officials of the defunct President Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (Paoctf) were involved in organized crime.

"During the hearings, the joint committees painstakingly focused on the issue at hand—the looming shadow of narco-politics in the country. But I'm pleased to inform you ... that the committees ably steered the course in the rough seas of investigation," Barbers said.

He said the joint committees had established "prima facie evidence" linking the Paoctf to drug-trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom.

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Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:

1. July 27, 2003 was the second time President Arroyo declared a state of rebellion. When was the first time? (Analysis by Armando Doronila, July 28, 2003)
   a. May 1, 1998
   b. May 1, 1999
   c. May 1, 2000
   d. May 1, 2001
2. He is the iconic sixties swingin' international man of mystery out to stop Dr. Evil from taking over the world.
   a. Joey de Leon
   c. Captain Barbel
   d. Austin Powers
   e. Gil Grissom
3. This father-and-son tandem was featured in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine last July 27?
   a. Joey and Keempee de Leon
   b. Edu and Lucky Manzano
   c. Dolphy and Eric Quizon
   d. Vic and Oyo Boy Sotto
4. What Inquirer special publication for kids received a citation from the Philippine Board on Books for Young People during the 20th National Children's Book Day?
   a. Junior Inquirer
   b. Sunday Inquirer Magazine
   c. Elan
   d. Job Market
5. What was the book featured in the July 26 issue of Elan?
   a. How to Become Famous in Two Weeks or Less
   b. How to Become Famous in Two Months
   c. How to Become Famous in Two Years
   d. None of the Above

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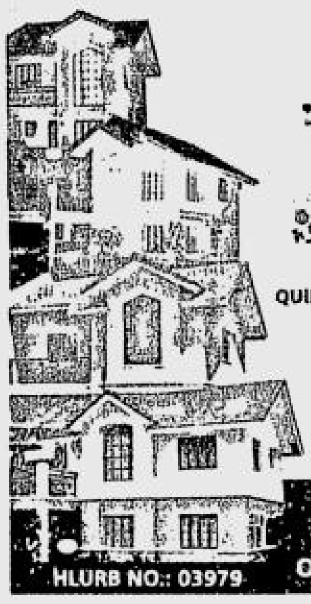

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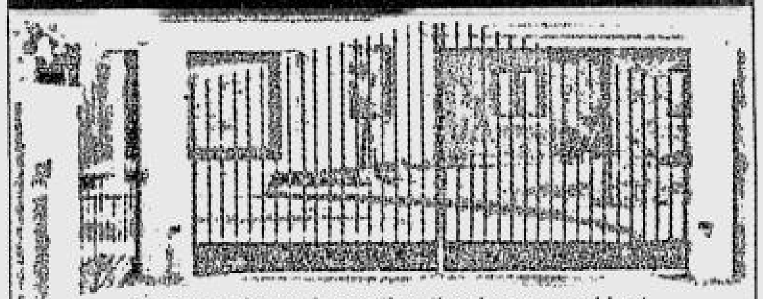

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More to fall in lifestyle check, says Marcelo

By Armand Nocum

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman will file later this month graft charges against another batch of government officials found to be living beyond their means.

In a telephone interview, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said graft charges will be filed against the officials from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Public Works and Highways as the government wraps up the lifestyle check currently being conducted on key officials of the three agencies.

Earlier, the Department of Finance filed graft cases against three officials of the BIR and one from the BOC in the initial stages of the lifestyle check. Rank-and-file employees of the two agencies had asked the DOF to halt the lifestyle checks because it was "demoralizing" them.

"If the lifestyle probe is fruitful, we are going to file new graft charges against officials of the three agencies by the end of August," Marcelo told the INQUIRER.

Marcelo did not say how many officials were being investigated in the current round of lifestyle checks, but in an earlier interview he had said 10 officials were from the DPWH.

He did not disclose their ranks, but sources in the DPWH said they ranged from an undersecretary to three district engineers, four regional directors and two project managers.

Marcelo said they "got the goods" on the officials with the aid of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, the Transparency Accountability Network and non-government organizations.

"*Malas lang ang tamaan* (Tough luck for those who will be charged)," he said.

Marcelo said that even if only a few of the graft cases stood up in court and resulted in the prosecution of the guilty officials, this would return public confidence to the government.

"You have to make corruption a low-reward activity," he said.

He said the lifestyle checks would not stop with officials of the three agencies, considered the most corrupt in government, but would soon be expanded to cover officials of the Departments of Education and Health and other agencies where "big procurements" are involved.

Russian crude steaming to RP

THE PHILIPPINES is importing petroleum from Russia for the first time, in a bid to diversify its energy sources due to the instability in the Middle East.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said the first cargo of crude oil is scheduled to arrive in about two weeks. The 700,000 barrels of light sweet crude oil from the Vityaz complex of the Sakhalin Energy Investment Co. (SEIC) were loaded onto the tanker Pacific Leo on July 23.

The shipment will be the first in a steady supply from the Russian Far East region, where the Philippines aims to obtain at least 10 percent of the country's total domestic annual requirement of 600,000 metric tons of crude oil. Most of this is sourced from the Middle East.

But in view of the instability in the Middle East and the war in Iraq early this year, the Philippine government as early as December 2002, during Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov's visit to Manila, made arrangements to import oil from Sakhalin Island.

Andrew Seck, Sakhalin Energy general manager for commercial affairs, told Philippine ambassador to Moscow Jaime Bautista that the island's proximity to Japan and Korea provides opportunities for back haul freight into Southeast Asia, "making it attractive for refineries in that region."
Gerald G. Lacuarta

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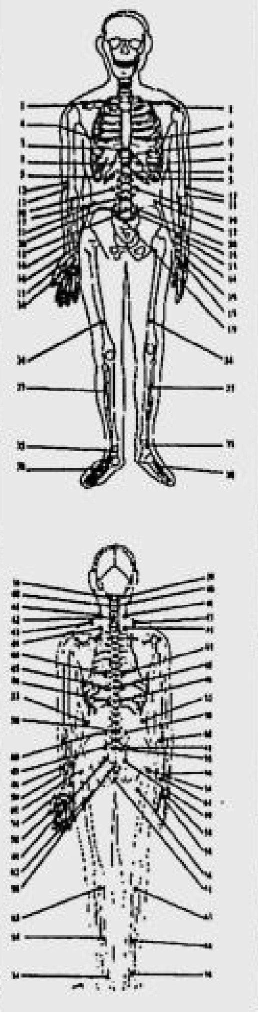

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July 29, 2003

Mr. ANDRES V. SANCHEZ, JR
President
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Dear Mr. Sanchez,

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   › *No.* There are imitations being marketed in the Philippines under different brand names but none is sold as Magic Sing. We will take legal action soon for infringement of patent rights.
2. *Is it true that there are second-hand or reconditioned microphones* being sold in the Philippines or elsewhere in the world?
   › *No.*
3. Related to quotation No. 2, can you assure us that *the Magic Sing products sold to our company are genuine and brand new?*
   › *Yes.*
4. *Are you supplying the leatherette jackets being supplied by Astra Group, Inc.?* Is it true that only Magic Sing microphones with leatherette jackets are genuine and brand new?
   › *No.*

We hereby declare that the above mentioned are correct and true in every detail.

Very truly yours,

MR. PETER KIM
Vice President of EIP

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Hybrid rice comes to fast food

By Norman Bordadora

ASIDE FROM giving the country's rice industry a much-needed boost, the high-yield hybrid rice varieties the Department of Agriculture has been harping about has fast-food chains convinced.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said fast-food giants Jollibee and Chowking now serve hybrid rice in many of their branches.

"There is a growing consumer demand for hybrid rice because of its better cooking and eating qualities," Lorenzo said.

"Farmers who shifted to hybrid rice production not only experienced higher yields, but are also raking in huge incomes due to the growing acceptance of their better-tasting product," Lorenzo said.

Jollibee vice president for legal affairs Claro Certeza confirmed that some branches of the Filipino fast-food chain were now serving hybrid rice.

"(Hybrid rice) meets our requirements for quality and taste," Certeza said in an interview.

Chowking is a subsidiary of Jollibee.

The DA said the International Rice Research Institute itself in Los Baños, Laguna, has ordered hybrid rice for the consumption of its staff who have developed a liking for the product because of its superior taste.

"The experimental cultivation of hybrid rice in the Philippines has proven successful and as a result the country would become self-sufficient in rice within a short period," Lorenzo said. Hybrid rice is the result of the cross-pollination of different rice varieties. It is all-natural and not artificially genetically modified.

In a recent technology demonstration, SL-8, one of the latest hybrid rice varieties, registered an impressive yield of 10.6 metric tons (212 cavans) per hectare.

The yield was more than three times the national average of three metric tons and gave farmer Ernesto P. Pablo Sr. of Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, a record net income of P90,617 per hectare.

Pablo was awarded first prize in a technology demonstration contest.

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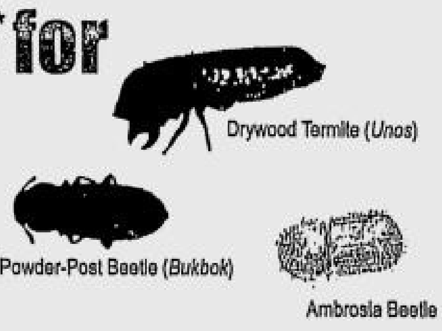

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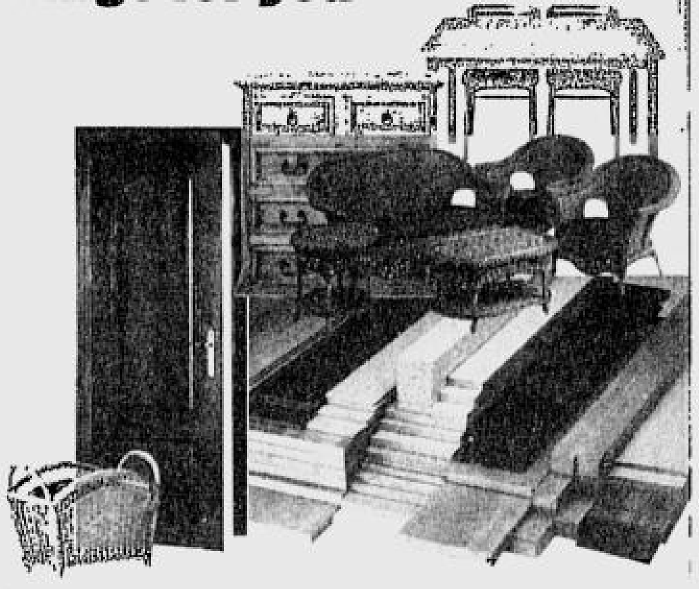

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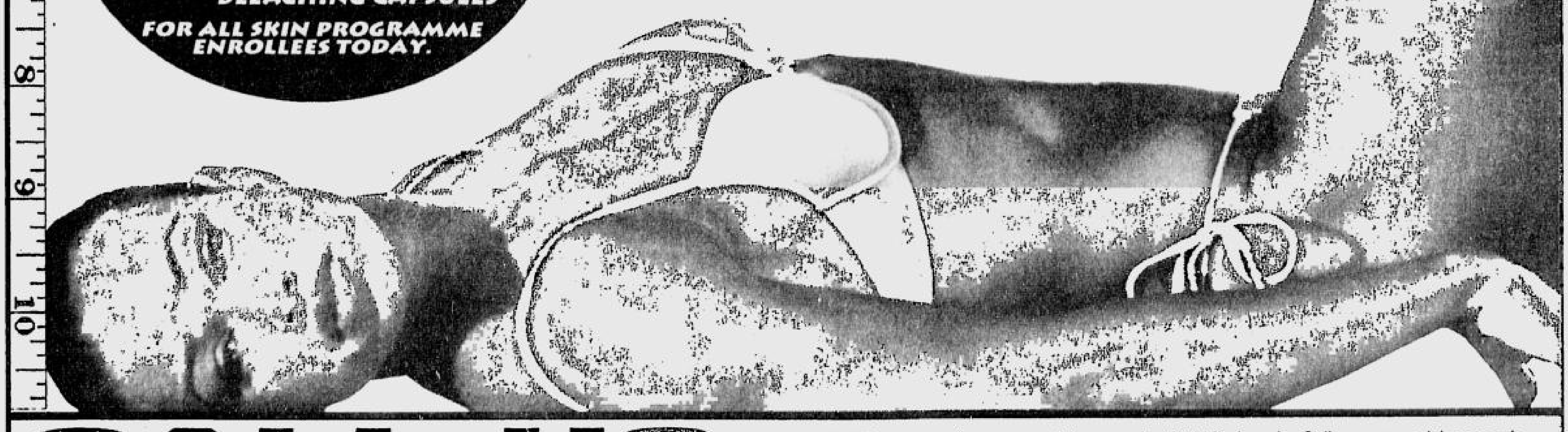

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MILF chair, founder Salamat believed dead

From page A1

replaceable."

Another source said he received information that Salamat had died of natural causes from "persons who have access to the MILF."

"One of them even swore in the name of Allah that Salamat is dead," the source said.

Salamat used to give interviews to journalists in Camp Abubakar, the MILF's main camp, before it fell into government hands during the war in 2000.

Peace talks

Since then, Salamat had been issuing statements, oral or written, through his deputies.

On July 20, Jaafar said the MILF Central Committee decided to allow Salamat to become the rebel group's chief negotiator when peace talks with the government resume.

But two days later, Jaafar said he was quoted out of context on the MILF chair's participation in the stalled talks. He claimed that what he said was that Salamat "would be at the panel as head during the signing of the final peace agreement."

When asked yesterday if Salamat would be present at the signing of the peace agreement, Jaafar replied: "Whoever is the chairman will be there."

The INQUIRER got wind of reports on Salamat's death from North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

Salamat was born on July 7, 1942 in Pagalungan, Maguindanao to an upper class Maguindanaoan family. In 1959, he went to Cairo and entered the Al-Azhar University where, in 1967, he obtained a bachelor's degree in Aqueedah and Philosophy. In 1969, he received a master's degree from the same school.

Salamat also joined groups like the Philippine Muslim Student Association and the Organization of Asian Students and became leader of the Philippine Students Union.

It was in Cairo that Salamat organized a core group among Muslim students from the Philippines who planned to launch the Moro revolution in the early 1960s.

Salamat was credited with covertly arranging the military training of the first batch of cadres of the Moro National Liberation Front. He broke away from the MNLF to form the MILF in 1978. *With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MILF Chair Salamat addresses his troops in an undisclosed rebel stronghold in Central Mindanao. AFP

Araw Awards reach for the stars

Foreign creative directors in this year's jury

The Creative Committee of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) is now accepting entries for the 2003 Araw Awards. The awards are the most sought-after in the local industry and have consistently recognized the best in Philippine advertising. This year, the competition is opening up to big ideas in all media (traditional and non-traditional) to celebrate 18th PAC's theme, "What's the Big Idea?"

The organizers adopted many suggestions from previous committees to improve competition in certain categories, making the 2003 Araw Awards more reflective of the rapid changes in the advertising industry.

Among these are new categories like Direct Marketing, Design and Interactive. Also for the first time this year, the juries will comprise of both local and foreign creative directors.

Among those confirmed are: Steve Elrick of BBH Singapore: winner of this year's "Best of the Best" at the Asian Advertising Awards; Sonal Dabral of Ogilvy KL, a past winner of the Best of the Best; and Norman Tan, Southeast Asia Creative Director of J. Walter Thompson. Others invited include David Blackley of Clemenger BBDO Melbourne, Yasmin Ahmad of Leo Burnett KL, and Craig Davis, Regional Creative Director of Saatchi and Saatchi.

"The vision of this year's Ad Congress is making Philippine advertising more globally competitive by focusing on Big Ideas, and getting fresh eyes to look at the work is a vital part of that," said David Guerrero, chairman of the 18th PAC Creative Committee.

The judges will be sharing their work and their insights with the local advertising industry in a special "Judge's Night" to be held on October 7. It is expected that many practitioners and students will be eager to meet some of the region's brightest creative minds in person. More details of the event will be announced later.

Advertising materials first aired, posted, published or publicly displayed between September 16, 2001 and August 31, 2003 are eligible to join the competition.

Categories for the 2003 Araw Awards include:

- Single Entry Competition (television/cinema, printed publications, radio, low-budget TV production and outdoor, transit, point-of-sale, ambient and innovative media, design, direct-mail and interactive);
- Campaign Competition (single-medium and multi-media campaign); and
- Craftsmanship Competition (television, radio, print, outdoor and direct mail).

The competitions for single-medium and multi-media campaigns will no longer be mutually exclusive as well.

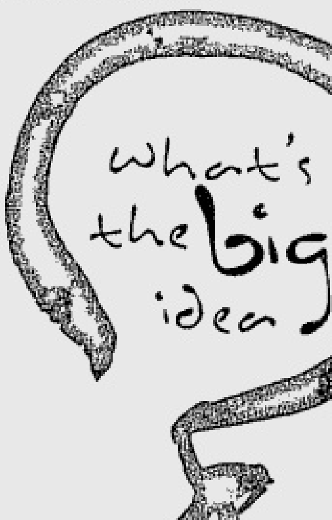
Ad agencies should provide English translations for their Filipino version entries since there would be foreign judges in this year's Araw Awards. For TV and print, copysheets would be necessary, but agencies may also opt to have their TVCs subtitled.

The 2003 Araw Awards official rulebook and entry forms are distributed in CD form or may be downloaded from the 18th PAC's official website (www.18thpac.com). As an added bonus, the 2003 Araw Awards finalists will be featured in the 18th PAC souvenir program.

Entry fees are as follows: Early bird rates (until August 15) for Araw Advertising, Campaign and Craftsmanship Awards are P1,500, P3,000 and P1,500, respectively; and regular rates (August 16 to 30) for the said categories are P1,800, P3,600 and P1,800, respectively. Deadline for submission of entries for the early bird rates is at 6pm on August 15, 2003 while the final deadline for all entries is at 6pm on August 30, 2003.

Winners will be recognized in two separate awards nights at the Ad Congress in Baguio City. The first on November 21 will recognize the winners in Print, Radio, Outdoor, Direct Marketing, Design and Interactive. The second on November 22 will recognize the winners in TV and Cinema.

All entries must be submitted to: The 18th Philippine Advertising Congress c/o Zia Morales, Advertising Board of the Philippines, 6/F Dao Condominium Bldg., 89 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.



For inquiries, call Cris Honrado at tel. 813-4397 or 818-6113, or Zia Morales at 482-0003 loc. 02.

Ninez cries harassment …

From page A1

law office.

Dumayas originally set bail at P20,000 but reduced it to P12,000 upon the request of Olivares. She posted bail but vowed to reporters she would fight her case.

"Obviously, it's harassment . . . This is definitely political," Olivares said of her arrest.

"This (warrant) stemmed from a libel case filed against me by Pancho Villaraza. And who is Villaraza but the personal lawyer of Gloria Arroyo?" she said.

If found guilty of criminal libel, Olivares could be sentenced to a maximum of four years in prison.

Olivares had published a series of articles alleging that Villaraza had committed "illegal and reprehensible acts amounting to bribery and violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act" in connection with the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

The articles alleged that Villaraza asked for $20 million from the German firm Fraport AG, foreign partner of Piatco in the Naia 3 project, in exchange for solving the firm's legal troubles. The German firm had a falling out with its Filipino partner.

The Daily Tribune also published transcripts of alleged conversations between Villaraza and Fraport representatives.

In his complaint, Villaraza said the articles were based on "private conversations" that had been recorded illegally, adding they were "not only hearsay statements but also inadmissible as evidence."

"I'm not crabbing about the libel suit . . . I'm crabbing about the way (the issuance of the warrant) was done," Olivares told reporters.

"I was informed last Thursday of the DOJ resolution (finding probable cause in the libel case). And on Friday a warrant was issued. I was not given the requisite 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration," she said.

The copies of the warrants, which show Olivares' address at the 9th floor of the GLI Building, T.M. Kalaw corner Mabini streets, Ermita, Manila, were brought to the WPD headquarters on Sunday morning by a certain Attorney Navarro, according to WPD Warrant Section head Sr. Insp. Virgilio Dacara.

Olivares said her maid woke her up at 6:30 a.m. Monday to tell her that a package had been sent to her and that she needed to sign for it personally.

DAILY Tribune publisher-editor Ninez Cacho-Olivares speaks on her cell phone at the warrant section of the Western Police District where she was taken shortly after her arrest for libel. ERIK ARAZAS

When Olivares got to the door, a man in civilian clothes, PO2 Rewel Ramos, introduced himself as a police officer and informed her of her arrest.

Olivares was brought to the WPD headquarters in her own vehicle, escorted by the police. The Tribune publisher said the policemen were nice to her.

Even so, Olivares' lawyer said the arrest warrants were processed extraordinarily fast, denying her enough time to fight its issuance.

"Ninez was denied due process," lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, a former immigration commissioner, said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye denied the arrest was part of a government crackdown on the political opposition or critics.

"This arose out of a legitimate case," Bunye said, noting that appropriate charges were filed and legal procedures were followed. "As far as we know they have not been denied any of their rights."

In the past, a number of high-profile libel suits have been filed against journalists. In 1987, President Corazon Aquino sued for libel Philippine Star columnist Luis Beltran. He was convicted and his appeal was still pending when he died in 1994.

After his death, the Court of Appeals reversed Beltran's conviction. *Margaux Ortiz, Leila B. Salaverria and AP*

Stop, look, listen but first …

From page A1

faintest idea who Xing is and the good he has done in bringing order to the urban jungle. And so Xing remains even to this day an enigma to many people.

But when you cross streets in Manila—before you stop, look and listen—you need to find Ped Xing.

"It's Pedro Xing-Hua, from a wealthy Chinese family," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said in jest in one forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza, after one of the guests asked him to reveal once and for all who Ped Xing was.

The name must have intrigued the guest, who, in asking Atienza, mentioned that Ped Xing's street signs were unique.

Ped Xing is written in bold black letters against yellow. All others, like Pedro Gil, Padre Faura, and Jose Abad Santos, A. Mabini are written in white letters against a green background.

And unlike them, Ped Xing's name is all over the city.

So who is Ped Xing? He is Chinese, he is Filipino, he is every nationality when he or she crosses the street. Ped Xing simply means "Pedestrian Crossing."

A clerk at the Manila City Hall Engineer's Office said she thought all along that Ped Xing was the name of the company which made the street signs.

"I thought the name was replaced after the sign had been put in place," said Adora Antonio of the Engineer's Office Industrial Safety Division.

Others thought Xing was a Chinese historical figure.

Dan Simeon, an architect at the City Development and Planning Office, said the installation of the Ped Xing street signs began early this year as part of an on-going project called Lighted Street Sign and Multi-Traffic Signals.

It can be seen along the city's main avenues, including Roxas Boulevard near Rizal Park and the US Embassy, along España, Jose Abad Santos and Taft Avenue.

"I think Manila is the only city in the Philippines where the Ped Xing street sign has been installed," Simeon said.

Long live Ped Xing!

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Militants mark labor leader's centennial

By Norman Bordadora

MILITANT groups and government officials will mark the 100th birth anniversary of the late pioneer labor activist Felixberto "Ka Bert" Olalia during a day-long tribute at the University of the Philippines.

Aside from leaders of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, which Olalia founded in 1980, and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, the family has invited to the rites political personalities like Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

"It's not enough for only our family to remember him on such an important occasion," Olalia's wife, Isabel, said yesterday. "Ka Bert ... taught us that we have a bigger family in society."

She said she specially wanted to share the tribute with "workers, the people whom Ka Bert served for more than 60 years."

Olalia succumbed to pneumonia while under house arrest on Dec. 4, 1983. For the activities of the KMU and all the labor unions under its wing, he had been convicted by the Marcos dictatorship of inciting to sedition. He fell ill after four months in detention, and was released.

A day before his death, Olalia managed to send a message to labor demonstrators at the Plaza Miranda, in which he said: "How can I describe Philippine society? It's a one big isolation cell. What is the condition of the people? Slaves...exploited...beggars!"

Also invited to today's event at the UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations are Bayan Muna Reps. Crispin Beltran, Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza; UP President Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

Beltran, Ocampo and Maza earlier filed a resolution for the Lower House to recognize Beltran's work. Some 50 congressmen have signed the resolution.

The lawmakers recalled that Olalia engaged in active dialogue and lobbying with legislators of his time and was instrumental in the adoption of pro-labor laws and resolutions, among them: the reduction of the 12-hour workday to the current eight in 1934, the creation of an Agrarian Court, Republic Act 875 or Magna Carta of Labor, and the Minimum Wage Law. *With Carlito Pablo*

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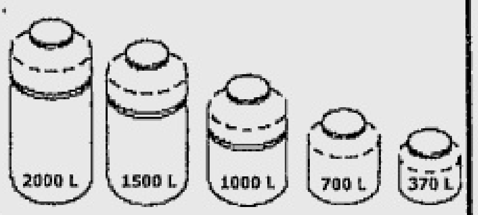

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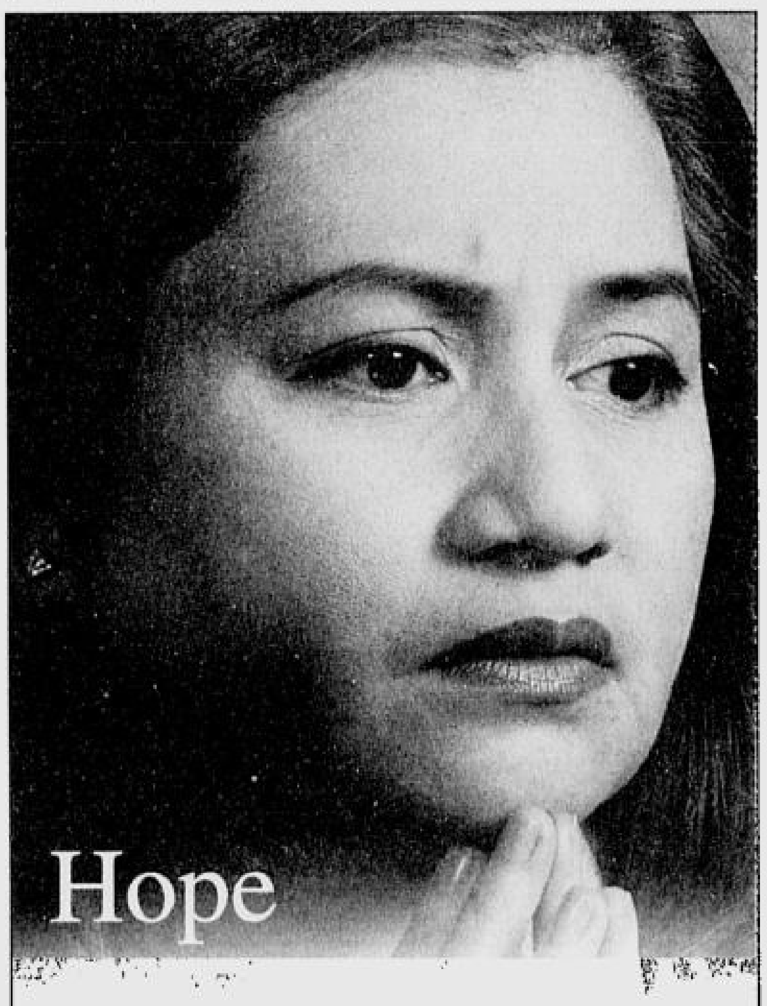

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Channels of grievance

EDITORIAL

THE REBEL soldiers who staged a mutiny last July 26 said they had no choice but to rise in arms since all avenues to express and redress their grievances had been closed to them. Taking into account the probable legitimacy of the grievances, was their ultimate action warranted?

We know for sure that the rebels tried to air their grievances with the President who promised to look into them but who, it seems, failed to impress the soldiers with her sincerity and promptness. It appears that with the haste with which the soldiers took up arms even before the President could act on their complaints, their coup was predetermined, even premeditated. They were just only too ready to topple her government.

To be sure, the complaint that corrupt sectors of the military officialdom have been trafficking arms from the military's own armory among Muslim secessionists, Abu Sayyaf bandits and other enemies of the state is nothing new. In the 1980s, as the communist insurgency raged, there were very pregnant reports about government arms ending up in communist hands. Even the communist rebel leadership has not been taciturn about this. At the height of the Oakwood standoff, a spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao said in a radio interview that the communist underground itself had bought arms from the military.

That stinking corruption like arms selling to the enemies of the state has been allowed to fester for so long only shows how complicit the military organization has all along been. It took the reckless gumption of Class '95 of the Philippine Military Academy to bring this to wider public awareness.

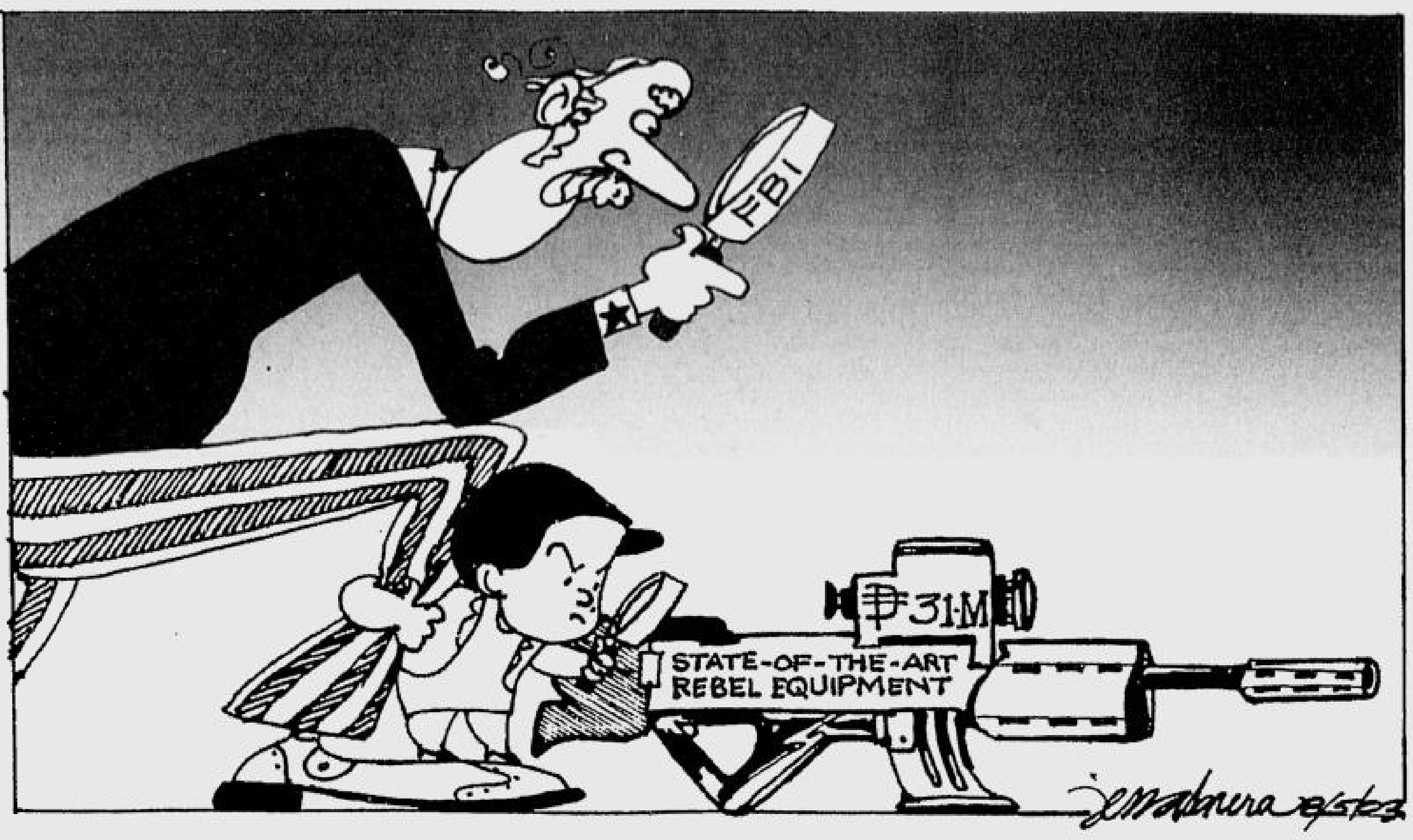
Thanks, but no thanks. The fact is that the rebels could have resorted to a host of channels to air their grievances. They could have filed their complaints with the Inspector General's Office and the Office of the Ombudsman, which has a deputy ombudsman for military affairs. They could have also leaked the complaints to the media, but they did not. The rebel leader, Antonio Trillanes IV, said once the issue disappeared from the headlines, public interest would wane and official whitewashing would commence.

Part of the rebels' strong reluctance to use legitimate channels for remedying the situation was their strong distrust of the top brass. Whether Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes likes it or not, his perceived political ambition has made him less than the person whom soldiers and officers can trust and obey. The same liability hounded Fidel Ramos during the coups of the 1980s.

But then, the rebels had only glowing words for the Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, who was PMA head in the 1990s. They seemed to show the ambivalence characteristic of putschists who would take up arms but refuse to open fire at comrades at the other side of the fence. This false bravado, too, is not surprising. This is nothing but a variant of the dangerous ethnocentrism that has disguised the PMA as an elite corps of officers when in truth, it is nothing but a Greek-letter fraternity with its own ritual code of violence and naked tribalism.

In all of this, we see the witting and unwitting arrogance of officers and soldiers who will brook no opposition. The rebels could have taken corrective avenues that were wide open, but they condemned all of this as nothing but a smokescreen and a conspiracy to deny them the justice that they felt was due to them. They could have in fact shot at the generals and other officers who had been behind the arms trafficking, but perhaps since they had failed to name names, and also because of the damning ethnocentrism of the PMA fraternity, they did not. They instead rose up against the civilian constitutional government, not firing a single shot against the perceived enemy, but just the same shooting down the Philippine economy. Proclaiming themselves as soldiers of truth and democracy, they instead shot down constitutional democracy. At heart, they are anti-democrats.

The nation and the government must respond to this by strengthening democratic institutions and channels to make them more sensitive to the expression, direct or subtle, of common grievances. Now as then, rebellions should be seen as failures of the justice system, the internal affairs systems of the military and the police, the Inspector General's Office, the Office of the Ombudsman, of the executive and the legislature. In all of these corrective measures, democracy should be strengthened and not, as in the case of the putschists and their false bravado, extinguished.



Oakwood could have been leveled

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

HAD the negotiations with the mutineers on Sunday, July 27, failed, the Oakwood apartment complex, and perhaps Glorietta, would gave been leveled to the ground, according to former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu, the chief government negotiator. Cimatu and two other officers recounted the negotiation at a press forum at Sulo Hotel last Saturday. The government was ready to use artillery, rockets, planes, helicopters and bombs against the rebels, he said. Oakwood would have been attacked with rockets floor by floor from adjoining buildings. Casualties on both sides would have been horrific as elite units from both sides would have fought. Hospitals had already been alerted to expect many casualties.

After the crisis was over and "I looked around inside Oakwood (and) saw the smiling faces of my soldiers, I told myself, we just saved the lives of these soldiers," Cimatu said. "I knew that a rocket and artillery attack would have leveled Oakwood. Outside and around the building, the government soldiers and the rebels embraced as if they were one again. I knew, too, that there would have been big casualties on the side of the government forces."

As he reached the Intercontinental Hotel parking lot, Cimatu looked back at Oakwood and said a short prayer: "Thank you, God, for helping us solve a crisis."

Cimatu also gave credit to the classmates of the rebel officers at the Philippine Military Academy for opening the dialogue with the rebels. It was these classmates who first went to Oakwood and got permission to enter and talk to their "mistahs." He added that Secretary Dodie Limcaoco, who was at the Edsa Shrine at the time, had informed him that they were trying to open a line of communication with the Magdalo group through a bishop and a relative of Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV but that this did not materialize.

By the time Cimatu's negotiating team arrived at the parking lot behind the Intercon, the 5 p.m. deadline was almost up and a platoon-size group of rebels had already surrendered through the efforts of the classmates.

"This act of surrender was an indicator of cracks within the Magdalo group and the pressure of the deadline at 5 p.m.," Cimatu said. "I knew also that this act of surrender was contagious."

At this time, the Magdalo group was having its press conference, voicing their grievances to the members of the press. As the press conference was going on, Cimatu was told that the government's ground forces were already moving to their assault positions and that air and artillery support were already in place.

After the conference, Cimatu learned that Senators Gringo Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and Tito Sotto, together with Secretary Mike Defensor and Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Velasco were talking to the rebel core group. He waited for his turn to talk to the core group but a member of his team suggested that he first talk to some lower level officers.

On the way to the rendezvous point on the ground floor, Velasco called him by cell phone that Trillanes would meet with him.

"As I entered the building," Cimatu related, "I met familiar faces. I met members of the SWAG of the Navy, the same unit which participated in some operations against the (Abu Sayyaf) in Mindanao. I met Marine officers and men who were with me in the campaign in Lanao and Maguindanao against the MILF, particularly in the clearing of the Narciso Ramos Highway and Camp Abubakar. I also met the Rangers and the LRC whose commanders I had the privilege of working with in Basilan when I was SouthCom commander. They were the commanders for whom I had a lot of praise. As I greeted them, I could see the happiness in their faces, probably telling me that a solution was already in sight."

Somebody guided the Cimatu team to the seventh floor of Oakwood where he met Trillanes for the first time, and the three senators who briefed him on what they had talked about, as well as other government military officers.

"My opening statement to the group was, 'Relax.' It was as if I were still their commander," Cimatu said. The three members of the core group alternately voiced out their gripes.

Among the rebel demands were:

1. The creation of an independent body to look into the three recent bombings in Mindanao suspected to have been done by a special government team allegedly under orders from top officials.
2. Creation of an independent commission to look into and recommend reforms on the finance and logistics systems, the AFP housing program and death benefits for families of soldiers.
3. The resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, and PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane for command responsibility.
4. Favoritism and disproportionate pilot-to-aircraft ratio, causing delays in training and promotions.

At about 9:30 p.m. the government team convinced the Magdalo group that all these issues would be presented to the President. During a 15-minute break, Cimatu phoned Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to ask for authority to approve the terms proposed. Cimatu then proposed a "back to barracks" scheme, wherein the rebels would be moved to Fort Bonifacio for processing, after which they would be returned to their respective units. They would immediately be investigated through the process outlined in the Articles of War.

The Magdalo group agreed to the scheme but that the five members of the core group would absorb all the responsibility and their followers would be reinstated.

The crisis was over. It was past 10 p.m.

Can she do it?

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

CAN Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declare martial law?

That's the question everyone's been asking since the mutiny the other weekend. That was one of the mutineers' accusations: that GMA and company were conspiring to declare martial law. GMA's decision to extend the state of rebellion seems to bolster it.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines has already warned of the dangers of an extended state of rebellion. "It cannot be indefinite," IBP president Jose Anselmo Cadiz, says. "It must not compromise the civil liberties of the citizens." Rep. Renato Magtubo is blunter: "It looks like GMA will push ahead with what the Magdalo group warned was her plan to declare martial law. Let us be vigilant."

Well, it's always good to be vigilant. But it's even better to look at things with a clearer vision.

I myself cannot see how GMA can declare martial law.

There were four major factors that enabled Ferdinand Marcos to do it. The first was the willingness of the United States to support tyrants; the second was the apparent state of anarchy and rebelliousness that had gripped the country; the third was the people's apathy or even willingness to try something new; and the fourth was Marcos' control of the military.

The early 1970s saw Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger in power in the White House. Both did not particularly mind propping up Third World dictators who were loyal to America. In fact, they did not particularly mind murdering democratically elected leaders who stood in their way, such as Salvador Allende. They were the first to acknowledge Marcos' martial law government. Indeed, as late as the 1980s, George Bush the elder, then Ronald Reagan's vice president, was still toasting Marcos' adherence to democracy.

The state of anarchy and rebelliousness, Marcos' primary reason for declaring martial law, was partly real and partly fabricated. The rallies in the streets and the encounters in the fields were real enough. Revolution had spread like a prairie fire in the campuses and in the rice paddies. Although from the very beginning, the number one recruiter of the NPA was not Jose Maria Sison, it was Marcos, a discovery the US State Department would make only 14 years later. More to the point, Marcos was directly fomenting the state of anarchy by bombing certain parts of Manila.

Although everyone talked of politicizing the masses, the masses then remained largely apolitical and apathetic. And poor. Everyone talked of a "spectacular divide" between rich and poor and a "social volcano" about to explode. Few saw that the situation could be exploited just as well by coup plotters. Marcos himself was surprised at the lack of resistance to martial law after he declared it. It owed in great part to the fact that the masses didn't mind something that offered them a way out of their rut, and the middle classes didn't mind quieter streets and schools.

And finally, Marcos had the generals in his pockets. They were all in awe and fear of him. In part too real and in part fabricated. He was brilliant and audacious, but he did not mind manufacturing academic and military credentials to bolster his image. "He was always two or three steps ahead of you," Gen. Romeo Espino, his AFP chief, gushed. You do not plot against someone who is two or three steps ahead of you.

GMA at least has the first. It wasn't just the World Trade Center that got razed in 9/11. American foreign policy over the last decade and a half, which reversed support for tyrants, got so, too. The thinking now as then is that you might be an SOB but you are George Bush's and Donald Rumsfeld's SOB. Bush and Rumsfeld are today's version of Nixon and Kissinger. Their adventurism in Iraq is not unlike Nixon and Kissinger's adventurism in Chile and elsewhere.

If this country should rediscover its pride again as 9/11 recedes in the distance, aided in no small way by this country's inability to cling to memories, Bush and Rumsfeld may be persuaded to support a government that will stifle protest against increased US military presence here. GMA has already proven she can, and will, go the extra mile for them. Of course if a military group can make the same assurance, with more stability to boot, they can always be persuaded to support it instead.

What is clear is that there are no longer any barriers to radical changes; which is an engraved invitation to desperate gambles. The political culture unleashed by the "war against terror," an awesomely martial one, has demolished those barriers completely. After the war on Iraq in particular, which overturned our concept of normalcy or sense of expectation, everything has become possible. Even martial law.

GMA has the second as well, a state of anarchy and rebelliousness. Though unlike Marcos', hers is more manufactured than real. The molehill from which the mountain known as GMA's "war against terror" has been spun is the Abu Sayyaf, a ragtag band that specializes in kidnapping foreigners. With the mutineers' accusation that she and Angelo Reyes masterminded the bombing in Davao, her depiction of the MILF as the local version of Saddam Hussein, spreading germs of mass hysteria if not brandishing weapons of mass destruction has become, at least, suspect. But she can always count on the boundless credulity of her countrymen, particularly when they are told certain things by the Americans. If the Americans tell us that terrorists are crawling in our midst, we will repeat, like feeble-minded planetary creatures hypnotized by Jedis, that terrorists are crawling in our midst.

I wouldn't be surprised if GMA, or Roilo Golez, goes on to link the coup plotters to al-Qaida. They've pretty much linked everybody else to it.

But that is all GMA's got. *(To be concluded)*

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Pelaez died 'overjoyed' by Sandigan UCPB ruling

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT, senator, congressman, foreign secretary and ambassador to Washington Emmanuel "Maning" Pelaez, 87, died while the Oakwood power grab by mutinous rebel officers was raging last July 27. This most prominent son of Mindanao, whom historians often term "the best president the country never had," lived 21 more years after the assassination attempt on him in 1982. That plot was widely believed at that time to have been masterminded by powerful politicians close to Marcos, in connection with Pelaez's fight against the coconut levy imposed on millions of coconut farmers. As he was being wheeled into the operating room with five bullets, he confronted Quezon City Police Chief Tomas Karingal with the now-famous query, "What's happening to our country, General?"

Last week, as the rebels' links with disgruntled politicians began to appear, various quarters again raised the question Pelaez had posed 21 years earlier: What's happening to our country? At the necrological service in the Senate for him, Senate President Franklin Drilon recalled that question in connection with the mutiny, and expressed "the fervent hope that one day we will stop asking this question."

* * *

Pelaez's son, Ernesto, in his necrological response, recalled that part of the former Veep's enduring work for the small marginalized folks was his championing in the late '70s of the coconut farmers' fight against the monopolistic United Coconut Oil Mills established by Eduardo Cojuangco and his cohorts upon orders of Marcos. Ernesto noted that Unicom was dictating copra prices which made the farmers suffer greatly, and in addition, they had to pay a levy imposed by the government "for industry improvements they never saw." Then Assemblyman Pelaez, the son of a Misamis Oriental coconut planter, Gregorio Pelaez, who became its governor, denounced the Cojuangco-led monopoly in the halls of the Batasan. To fight the coco levy issue was difficult for him for he had joined Marcos' KBL party years after he lost the nomination of the Nacionalista Party to Marcos in 1964, thinking he could work out reforms from within.

In 1982, recounted Ernesto, Maning had just finished proving that the coco farmers could get better prices in the world market than from Unicom, when he was gunned down in a dark street near his New Manila home. His faithful driver of 30 years, Arsenio Rogero, was killed, but Maning survived. Soon after that attempt on his life, he realized the futility of trying to reform the Marcos regime and, distancing himself from it, he decided to continue his crusade outside the political arena. In the 1986 snap elections, he campaigned for Cory Aquino against Marcos.

* * *

Over the past year, Pelaez was stricken with multiple strokes that left half of his body paralyzed and his speech impaired, but his brilliant mind remained intact. As Ernesto related, despite his impairment, he was the happiest man when he heard the news that the Sandiganbayar threw away Cojuangco's claim of ownership and control of the UCPB, the bank that was established with coco levy funds, and restored the custody of the said funds to the government in representation of the farmers. Former deputy administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority Al Lopez came to the Pelaez residence to read the newspapers accounts to him and Pelaez broke into a big smile, "visibly overjoyed to hear it."

Ernesto mused that his father's greatest satisfaction would have been to witness the actual return of the levy monies to the coconut farmers, but death overtook that. He said, in a sense, his father was like Rizal who died without seeing the proverbial dawn over his country.

* * *

My husband was a second lieutenant a year out of West Point when he was drafted to serve as junior aide de camp to VP Pelaez in 1962. He remained with him up to 1965. General Cunanan recalled the Nacionalista Party Convention of 1964 at the Manila Hotel, when Pelaez and then Senate President Marcos fought in a runoff for the NP nomination to the 1965 presidential elections. A covenant was signed among the presidential aspirants, which had also included earlier senators Gil Puyat, Fernando Lopez and Arturo Tolentino, that there would be no buying of delegates' votes. But even before the convention opened, reports were received that the Marcos camp was already paying off delegates and on the convention floor, Imelda Marcos' Blue Ladies distributed "sandwiches" containing P50 bills, at that time the biggest denomination.

* * *

Before the runoff, Masbate Rep. Emilio Espinosa and Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez informed Pelaez that the Marcos Camp was paying district chairs P10,000 to P15,000 each, and delegates P3,000 to P5,000 each. The two Pelaez supporters argued that since their camp had the funds, the VP should allow them to "match" the Marcos offers, which is not really buying votes but simply "buying back the delegates' 'independence' to vote according to their conscience." They stressed that this would not be violating the covenant Pelaez signed. He replied that the 1960 NP Convention had been notorious for vote-buying and he will not allow a repeat of it as it would not only destroy the party but also our democratic institutions. "What kind of President would I make if I were to indulge in such activities?" he asked, asserting that he'd "rather be right than President." Marcos went on to be nominated by the NP and beat reelectionist President Diosdado Macapagal in 1965. It boggles the mind how vastly different the country's history would have been if Pelaez had made it instead of Marcos. *(To be continued)*

Women's tales

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GOTA de Leche, which is Spanish for "Drop of Milk," is the oldest women's non-government organization in the country, founded by a group of civic-minded women around the turn of the century who wanted to provide milk for infants whose mothers could not breastfeed them.

Gota's headquarters is in a compound fronted by a serene garden with a low, one-story structure that stands out among the mess that is the congested Sampaloc-University Belt area like a quiet oasis. I remember coming upon Gota during my student days, and while the artful restoration of the structure had not yet taken place, even in its shabby state the graceful arches and slim pillars of the building evoked a long-gone era of refinement and grace. I read somewhere that its architecture was fittingly inspired by a famous monastery in Italy constructed around the time of the Renaissance.

Well, I'm afraid the serenity of Gota de Leche was shattered the other week when Abanse! Pinay held its thanksgiving party there amid driving rain and the shrieks and cheers of women whose ebullience not even the drumming of raindrops could quite dampen or drown. But I'm sure the founding mothers of Gota would not only have approved, they would, if they could, have joined in the festivity.

There was much to be grateful for. Officers of the other six party-list groups that, with Abanse! Pinay, are just taking their seats in this final session of Congress, love to tell the women of Abanse! Pinay how "lucky" they are. And while the Pinays acknowledge that indeed the latest Supreme Court decision declaring the party among those which met the minimum requirement for one seat in the House was a pleasant surprise, it was nonetheless "well deserved."

* * *

AND it was precisely the stories the women told at the thanksgiving party that proved the value of a representative who sits in the House conscious of the fact that her primary constituency is the women of this country, and having as her top priority the protection, promotion and advocacy of women's rights and welfare.

Invited to the party and presenting testimonials during the brief program were representatives of various women's and community organizations which had benefited from funds sourced through Abanse! Pinay Party-List Rep. Pat Sarenas. These groups had worked hard and energetically during the campaign, and I'm sure not just because they had been beneficiaries (for many, the funds arrived long after the votes had been counted) but because they believed in Abanse! Pinay's advocacies. Many other women's groups and communities, scattered throughout the archipelago, had been beneficiaries and worked hard for votes as well, but given the sudden turn of events, there was little time or money to get everyone together.

But those who came had stories aplenty. Anawin, or Alyansa ng mga Nag-iisang Magulang, is an organization of solo parents based in Camarin, Caloocan. Anawin had worked closely with Sarenas during the deliberations for the Solo Parents Welfare Law. As the leaders pointed out, it is difficult enough having to raise a child all by oneself, but it is much more difficult to do so when you're so poor you barely have enough to support yourself. Sarenas and the women of Anawin agreed that they would work closely together on the "oversight" function, seeing to it that the Solo Parents Law is implemented fully.

* * *

MEN and women from Mawasa-Kamahari, an alliance of a water system association and a peasants' group based in Nasugbu, Batangas, came to testify on the impact of a grant for a water system coursed through Abanse! Pinay. "I have lived for over 20 years in (the area)," said Melandria Casilihan, "and all that time we women and children have had to fetch water from a river for our needs. Only now can we enjoy water that comes from a faucet." Yes, Mr. Skeptic, even water is a women's issue.

Roberta Maynigo of Ulap, or Ugnayang Lakas ng mga Apektadong Pamilya sa Baybaying Ilog Pasig, an association of urban poor who live along the banks of the Pasig River, spoke of her group's hope that Abanse! Pinay would help them negotiate with the government for just and humane arrangements even as the government pursues the campaign to "clean up" the banks of the river.

* * *

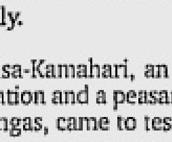
BUT they were hardly encouraged by the stories told by representatives of the Action Group Kasiglahan, composed of urban poor dwellers who were relocated to Kasiglahan Village in Montalban. "We were thrown there," said Vangie Pangilinan, and she meant that literally since, she said, "government seems to have forgotten we exist." There is one teacher for over a hundred students in a classroom where there are no desks or chairs. The nearest market is a long jeepney ride away, and they dread the day a medical emergency should arise because there is no clinic nearby.

Why, even our emcee had her own story! Germelyn Esperrago sits on the board of commissioners of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, representing the urban poor. But her "real" job is that of a daycare center teacher, and she couldn't help talking about how the center, in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, was suddenly demolished, without warning, in the middle of the morning while classes were going on. "I'm still traumatized," she said. "Imagine looking up from your lesson and seeing the wall of our daycare center come tumbling down after a backhoe knocked it down!"

Truly, in a society where power speaks and the powerful listen only to those who threaten them, it's the poorest and weakest who must bear the consequences of disempowerment, and must organize to make themselves heard.

Footnotes

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

DID you notice that many times when you're reading some historical account or research paper the footnotes are more entertaining than the text? Or some observation not relevant to your field of investigation opens up a whole new subject you were not even aware of before you started your research?

The following are not technically footnotes but insights and observations at the turn of the century made by Gustavus Ohlinger, who had come East to visit his parents in Shanghai and ended up staying three years, six months of which were spent in the Philippines. He kept a diary with a portion covering his stay in Manila in 1903.

Ohlinger first stayed at the Metropolitan Hotel, which was of little interest being a "dirty, dingy, hot, stuffy place" but apparently Manila had "tombstone pavements" with Chinese characters although there were some with Roman inscriptions. In front of the hotel was a granite slab bearing a skull and bones and the date 1609. (In this regard, you may want to take a look at the ones in the courtyard of Sta. Cruz Church, one of which is older than the one found in Sta. Ana.)

He also went looking for a "Don Palanca," i.e. Don Carlos Palanca, a.k.a. Tan Quien-Sien, but was told the gentleman had returned to China, which was a common practice in those days. It seems that many Chinese who made their fortunes in other lands would return to their native land in their old age, believing that the place of your birth should be your final resting place.

The early American administration made up mostly of army men had made a recommendation and was prepared to demolish the walls of Intramuros despite their antiquity. The military was convinced that here were "large tracts of land for building or boulevard purposes. At the present the moat is certainly a breeder of mosquitoes."

(It was a good thing a more cultured and educated policy prevailed then, but the way things go these days, it isn't too remote a possibility that some administration may feel the same way. A previous one after all, allowed restaurant owners to gouge holes into walls that had cost the taxpayers P300 million to restore and reconstruct. And by the way, no one's answering for it as far as I can see.)

It was also the practice it seems to dismantle old structures and reuse them in another capacity. Ohlinger traveled to the Carriedo waterworks which at the time were still using the same engines installed in 1880 when it was inaugurated. Here he found the engineer, Mr. Lindsey, appropriating an old stone fort for the storage of coal and dismantling another to use for paving stones.

On a boating party to Los Baños, Ohlinger commented that "at one place we passed what at one time must have been a chapel. What with stone vaulting and the vegetation which overhung it from the bank, it had the appearance of a cavern in the rock. Part of the space was undoubtedly hewn out of the rocks. There were numerous ruins of arches and stone bridges over the creeks emptying the Pasig." (Anybody know what he might have been referring to?) There were moreover engineering works that could be seen along the shores such as stone arch bridges and solid roads that led him to conclude that "the Spaniards were by no means the good-for-nothing people they have been represented."

In another section, he quoted Elmer Drew Merrill, a botanist in the Bureau of Agriculture, who admired greatly the Dutch system in Indonesia. The whole island of Java looked like a garden and the Dutch were "absolute masters, and occupied a position of unquestioned superiority. The natives were not allowed to dress in the same clothes as their masters, and were obliged to kneel in addressing them. Nevertheless, the entire population lived in contentment and plenty." (How about that? Next time you read about the dastardly Spanish, remember the Dutch.)

On another excursion to Bulacan, Ohlinger's party went to a ball in Baliuag where they were guests at the finest house in town, called "Casa Camacho," with murals on the walls and ceiling. The house belonged to a family of professional gamblers and the father's fingers "were decorated with enormous diamonds as big as hickory nuts." Later that evening, he attended a ball with the two Camacho daughters and their brothers. The prettiest girl, according to him, was a *mestiza* whose grandfathers on both sides were Spanish friars. "The Filipino love for diamonds and jewellery appeared in all its luxuriance. The sparkling gems showed to advantage too, in the peculiar character of the stuffs they wore." (Meaning the Maria Clara gowns with their piña tops.)

Filipinos, according to school teachers and provincial officials, just weren't ready for self-government. Aside from ignorance we were not prepared primarily because we didn't grow up Protestants! (He might have a point there. Perhaps we've been too used to dictatorships.) The colonial administration moreover was very lenient with former insurgents who were rewarded with prominent positions in government much to the dissatisfaction of some of the Americans. (This last sure sounds familiar. Then came 1946, 1986 and hey, one of them was even elected senator, so what else is new?)

When he finally left Manila for Hong Kong, he found himself in the company of Filipino students who were "horrified at the sight of men pulling vehicles in the streets..." (The system of coolies no longer exists in Hong Kong. But what do you think those ancestors of ours would say about our present mode of transport called pedicabs?)

Medicine, anyone?

YOUNG BLOOD

Elvie Victonette B. Razon

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ALTHOUGH I was preparing to be a journalist for all of my young life, shortly before my graduation from college I experienced a soul-stirring episode that could not have been produced by random forces conspiring to make my life story happen. I recognized God's handwriting in it, and I knew with clarity and finality what I wanted to be.

It happened one month before our graduation when I me a poor woman in Maragondon, Cavite, during our community project. We were required to interview mothers in rural areas regarding their families' state of health. One day, we trekked to the far end of the town, whose scenery is now sketched vividly in my memory because of its untouched, raw beauty.

I began the interview perfunctorily and the woman, who was wearing slovenly clothes and lived in a squalid shanty answered my questions with surprising speed and intelligence. She sounded well educated. She knew the right food to give her children and the vaccines they needed.

But there was a moment's hesitation when I asked her to describe their typical meal. Instead of answering, she fell silent. I looked at her and waited. When she began to speak her eyes were brimming with tears.

She told me her family was so poor that their children could not eat decent meals. One of her three children was anemic for lack of meat and fish in their diet, but she could not do anything about it because the health center was three kilometers away and it often ran out of iron sulfate capsules anyway. Besides, the doctor assigned there was often away.

Right there and then I knew God wanted me to become a doctor. And that is how I found myself enrolling in the mos affordable medical school in the whole country, eager to study and practice medicine, perhaps with empty pocket but with a heart filled with a sense of purpose.

The road to medicine is full of stumbling blocks. And I do not mean only the difficulty of hurdling some really tough subjects, but larger issues that came tumbling down in the last few years.

First was the medical malpractice bill. Although I believe that a great responsibility is attached to the medical profession, I also think that no human being is exempt from making mistakes. Had the bill been passed, every doctor would live in constant fear of being haled to court instead of boldly sallying forth to meet the challenges of healing the sick.

Then there was the realization that I would never be able to provide my family a Caribbean cruise or even an entertainment center unless I join some television game show or better yet, hop into the nursing bandwagon after finishing medicine. Many doctors have accepted the reality that in this country right now, medicine cannot be as rewarding materially as many other professions. Nursing, on the other hand has become the passport to working abroad and earning dollars. The number of medical clerks who are quitting has been growing, while applications for internship and residency in many hospitals have been diminishing. It has been said that even medical specialists who have established a good practice have been following the trend and topping the nursing board examinations.

These doctor-nurses may have joined the ranks of our modern-day heroes after swallowing their pride and sacrificing their practice for the sake of their families. However, the long-term damage of this growing trend to the nation's health is bound to outweigh the economic benefits. The exodus of our doctors, some of whom are among the country's best, will not only further aggravate the lack of medical personnel, especially in marginalized areas, it will also worsen the already poor distribution of quality health care nationwide.

To us medical students, the situation is both alarming and disheartening. Some of our professors have advised us to think hard about finishing our studies, saying medicine has become "impractical." But while I have often been tempted to argue that it is a question of values, I know that faced with the necessity to provide for a growing family, I would probably do the same thing.

Another development that dampened the enthusiasm of medical students was the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which has baffled health experts until now. Although, only a small percentage of SARS victims die, most of the fatalities were health personnel who came in contact with their patients.

Next summer we will become clerks in two government hospitals in Manila, one of which is San Lazaro Hospital. Before the year ends, the SARS center in the other hospital to which we will be assigned will be opened. If by that time, no vaccine has been developed and a fresh outbreak occurs, we will be attending to SARS patients and putting our lives in peril.

I know a lot of my contemporaries who are considering other options. Last summer, I asked myself questions, too. Would I be willing to put myself and my entire family at risk of contacting the disease? Are my motives in aspiring to be a doctor pure and noble? Again, I realized it was a question of motives.

One afternoon, I heard a doctor being interviewed on television. Every day this doctor worked in a Singapore hospital where SARS patients were confined. Although he had to grapple with his fear of contracting the virus and passing it on to his family, he said it was his duty to take care of the sick. Cab drivers and even close friends were avoiding him as if he were everyone's walking deathbed.

He recalled that when he entered medical school, he wanted to "serve humanity" like everybody else in his class. Of course, he meant it in an abstract, detached sort of way although it sounded impressive and noble to many people. What he did not see coming was that his commitment would be put to a severe test. The SARS epidemic, he was said, was a test for him both as a doctor and as a human being, as it could mean really laying down one's life for others.

Right now, I am paralyzed with fear and doubts about what lies ahead. At the same time, I draw strength and inspiration from that selfless, compassionate doctor in Singapore who did not back down from doing his duty amid danger.

Being a doctor in the Philippines, in the age of medical malpractice, doctor-nurses and SARS, may not be as prestigious as before. These developments have stripped doctors of wealth, prestige, power and other trappings of their profession, leaving them with the core: responsibility under threat of a medical malpractice bill, detachment from material things when other doctors are becoming nurses and love and compassion in the time of SARS.

Three years after entering medical school, with God's grace I look forward to dangerous days ahead—with clammy hands, a palpitating heart and a firm resolve.

Elvie Victonette B. Razon, 23, is in third year at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Medical School.

Erroneous report on Australian travel advice

I WRITE to convey my disappointment with the misleading article on the Australian travel warning (PDI, 7/30/03, P. A6). Contrary to the report, the travel warning was updated to delete its reference to the Makati siege. It made no other changes.

Too often, there seems to be a negligent approach to this issue by the local media. Several weeks ago the media again mistakenly reported a change to the travel warning in the context of the Al-Ghozi escape. In fact, no changes were made as Australian authorities assessed that the travel warning already sufficiently covered any risks associated with the escape.

Can I suggest that your colleagues take the simple step of verifying alleged changes to the travel warning by accessing to the embassy website (www.australia.com.ph). The date of the latest update is clearly identified.

—RUTH PEARCE,
Australian ambassador,
Australian Embassy, Level 23-Tower 2,
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

The said news story was based on a travel advice on the Philippines posted on the website of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on July 29, 2003.

This advice was still current as of Aug. 2, 2003. It could be accessed at http://www.dfat.gov.au/consular/advice/philippines.html

—GERALD LACUARTA,
PDI reporter

Will Roxas have a free hand in Cancun?

WHAT is in store for the Philippines at the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization scheduled at Cancun, Mexico this coming September?

I ask the question because in the previous four ministerial meetings, the last one held in Doha, Qatar, the Philippines always emerged empty-handed, if not poorer. These ministerial meetings have been consistently used by the leading industrial countries—principally the United States, Japan and the European Community—to advance their already dominant interests at the expense of Third World countries.

Recently, the New York Times exposed how free trade bulwark America manipulated the market to undercut Vietnam's catfish industry. In another recent piece, the New York Times used the Philippines to show how advanced industrial countries—the United States, Japan and the European Community—"rigged" trade against Third World countries.

But there are indications that our experience in the previous four WTO meetings may not be repeated in Cancun. In all the previous meetings, the Philippines was represented by free trade fundamentalists. They went to the meetings not to protect and advance Philippine interests, but to exercise their faith in free trade. This faith-based approach had its fullest play during the Ramos administration, whose blind acceptance of unbridled free trade paved the way for the rise of Erap. Based on what they now say and do, there is a good chance that our representatives to Cancun would be different.

"No deal," says Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, "is better than a bad deal." In other words, the Philippines would rather not be a party to agreements hostile to Philippine interests. Moved by experience rather than by faith, Roxas will probably head our delegation to Cancun. With Roxas in the delegation will be Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, whose quiet efforts have afforded local agricultural players more breathing space vis-à-vis imported and smuggled competing products. Lorenzo has signaled his intention to seek at Cancun a reversal of the WTO focus on eliminating Third World tariffs while legitimizing export price support and farm subsidies in developed countries. Lorenzo has teamed up with his Indonesian counterpart in forming a bloc of Third World countries to ensure fair trade deals in the agriculture sector at Cancun.

Would Malacañang give Roxas and Lorenzo an unencumbered hand at Cancun? Or, would the free trade fundamentalists of technocracy be let loose to hamstring them?

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Suite 301 Union Square Condominium,
145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

Weights and waists

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IF we are to believe newspaper reports, we now face an epidemic of obesity among children and adults. Walk around our plush malls and it would seem Filipinos are indeed expanding, vertically and horizontally.

It was Dr. Cecilia Florencio, of the UP College of Home Economics, who pointed out during a recent talk that such claims, especially for Filipino children, are exaggerated. Her speech led me to check around for nutrition statistics, which I found compiled in a handy little booklet, "Philippine Nutrition: Facts and Figures," produced by the government's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). The book is based on the 1993 and 1998 National Nutrition Surveys (NNS) but was published only in 2001 and hasn't been widely circulated despite its wealth of information, from average waistlines to blood cholesterol levels.

Let's look at the nutrition figures for children. Using World Health Organization (WHO) standards, the surveys found that among our preschool children, 68 percent had normal weights for their age while 32 percent were underweight. Comparing heights to age, 66 out of every 100 children were found to be normal while 34 were stunted.

You might be asking, so what happened to the over-nourished among our preschool children? In the categories I just named, these "over-nourished" children—overweight or "too" tall—constituted only 4 out of every 1,000 children, or less than 1 percent.

Similar figures are found for older children. Among children of school age, meaning those 6 to 10 years old, 30 percent were found underweight while the number of those who were overweight was described as "negligible." Using heights for age standards, 59 percent were found normal while 41 were stunted; the number of those who were too tall was again negligible.

Overweight figures finally break the 1 percent mark only among adolescents. In this age group of 11 to 19-year-olds, 57 percent had normal weights, 40 percent were underweight and about 3 percent were overweight.

Let's go to the adults, where there are some startling figures for heights and weights. Among those aged 60 and over, the average height was 153 cm (5 feet). Among those aged 40 to 59, the average height was 156.2 cm (5 feet 1 in) and among those aged 20 to 39, this increases to 157.6 cm (5 feet 2 in). While it seems that Filipinos are growing taller, by and large we are still very short.

There were significant differences in the average heights by sex. Among those aged 20 to 39, the average height for men was 163.3 cm or 5 feet 4 inches. Among females in that age group, the average height was only 151.4 cm or about 4 feet 11 and a half inches, which means our President is well within the norm!

With such average heights, it shouldn't be surprising the weights for Filipino adults are also relatively low: 55.2 kg (121 pounds) for those aged 20 to 39, 55.4 kg (122 pounds) for those aged 40 to 59 and 49.7 kg (109 pounds) for those aged 60 and over.

The last National Nutrition Survey also looked at the mean waist circumference or average waistlines among Filipinos aged 20 and over. Among men, the average waistline was 79 cm or 31 inches while for women it was 74 cm or 29 inches. These may seem to be low figures but when you look at average heights and weights, the waistline figures do make sense. Try and imagine the average Pinoy male, standing 5 feet 1, with a 31-inch waistline.

There is a kind of battle of waistlines going on among regions. If you're looking for men with love handles, you're more likely to find them in Central Luzon, where the average waistline was found to be 84 cm (33 inches). On the other hand, the slimmest male waistlines were found in the Western Visayas (the Ilonggos) with an average of 76.7 cm or 30 inches.

Among females, the largest girths were found, surprisingly, in the Cordillera Administrative Region with an average of 82.2 cm (32.3 inches) while women in the neighboring Cagayan Valley romped away with the slimmest waists of 71.2 cm (28 inches).

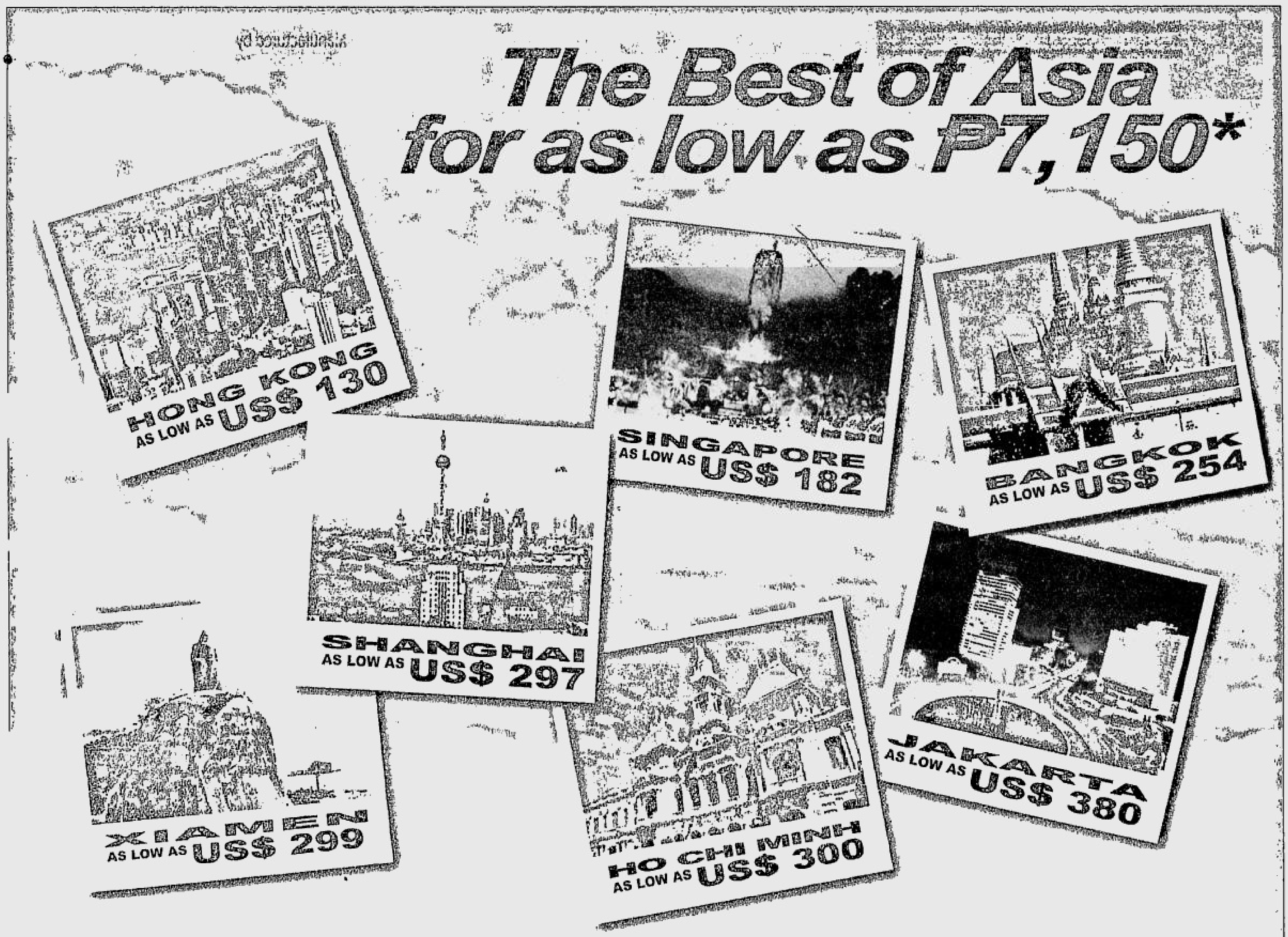
Our nutritionists are interested in high waist circumferences because this is an indicator of increased risks for hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and other diseases. The National Nutrition Survey found there were actually more females (10.7 percent of the total) who fall in this risk classification than males (2.7 percent), again contradicting popular perceptions about body shapes.

It's interesting that while the average waistline in the National Capital Region isn't that high, it does have the most number of people with wide girths: 2.4 percent of males and 23.3 percent of females. (The definition of a high waist circumference is more than 102 cm or 40 inches for males and 88 cm or 34.6 inches for females.) The higher incomes in Metro Manila doesn't necessarily translate into healthier diets.

It isn't just our body measurements that paint a bleak picture. The nutrition surveys also took blood to check for diet-related problems. The results were also disturbing. For example, 15 percent of the population had high cholesterol levels and half of pregnant women were suffering from iron deficiency anemia.

The picture we get from our nutrition surveys is depressing, showing a vicious cycle of undernourished anemic mothers delivering malnourished babies, who grow up chronically underweight and stunted. Our malnutrition is also paradoxical: on one hand, serious under-nutrition especially among our children, and on the other hand, we do have "over-nutrition" emerging with the older age groups, from junk foods and fast foods.

Many of our problems are due to the lack of support for feeding programs and for nutrition education. It doesn't help that politicians still favor one-shot, dole-out programs that feed people for a day or two and then leave them with crumbs the rest of the year. Unless we get our act together with nutrition, we can forget all talk about national development.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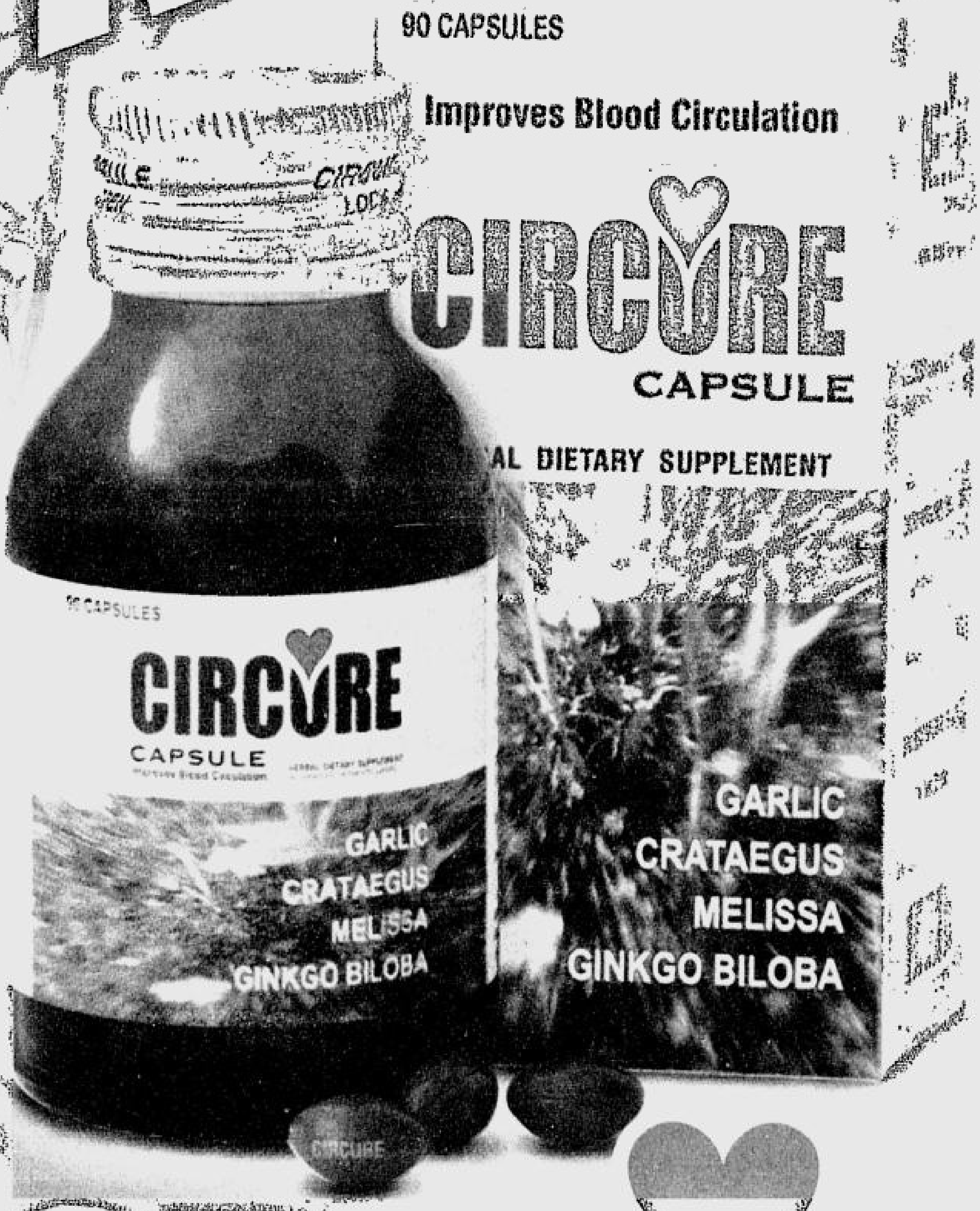
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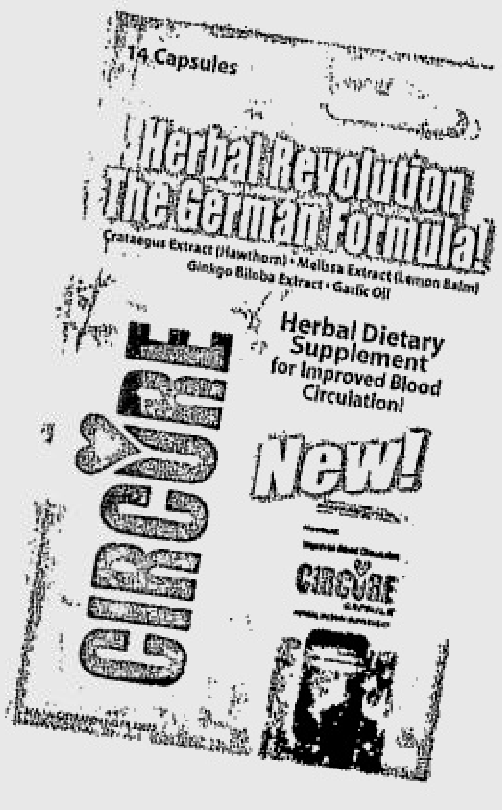
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

African troops deploy for Liberia rescue

MONROVIA, Liberia—Two UN helicopters lifted off Monday with the first West African peacekeeping troops for Liberia on a mission to end 14 years of carnage—and oversee the departure of President Charles Taylor, a former warlord.

The first helicopters took off early Monday morning from an airfield in neighboring Sierra Leone, each bearing 20 Nigerian soldiers in camouflage uniforms on the roughly hourlong flight to Liberia. Authorities said a total of 192 men and 15,000 kg of equipment would be deployed Monday.

Allan Doss, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's representative in Sierra Leone, saw off the first troops.

"I wish you Godspeed and well in this historic mission to Liberia," Doss said.

"The people of Liberia have suffered a lot, for too long. They need your help," he told the troops.

In all, 675 Nigerian soldiers and 18 of their officers assembled on the airfield to take part in the first deployment.

West African leaders have promised a 3,250-man force to quell fighting in Liberia, where a two-month siege by rebels has killed more than 1,000 civilians and all but cut off the refugee-crowded city of more than 1.3 million from food and water.

The Nigerians are peeling off from a UN mission in Sierra Leone, where large-scale military intervention by Britain, neighboring Guinea and the United Nations helped end a vicious 10-year civil war.

A UN fixed-wing aircraft, borrowed from a separate UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, was flying in to Sierra Leone on Monday to speed up the Liberian deployment, force organizers said.

Gen. Daniel Opande, commander of the UN force in Sierra Leone, spoke of "the very difficult task to try to bring Liberia back to normalcy."

"We shall follow what you have to do, and I am sure you will succeed," Opande said, drawing three cheers from the men.

Soon after the first two helicopters took off, troops loaded the first equipment—rumbling an armored personnel carrier up to another aircraft.

Separate flights carrying more equipment were also planned from another Sierra Leone airfield.

On Sunday, the commander of the peacekeeping force for Liberia sought to temper high expectations among the country's suffering people, saying the first troops would only secure the airport on the capital's outskirts.

"We are going in with as much troops as possible," Nigerian Brig. Gen. Festus Okonkwo, the force's commander, told reporters late Sunday. "We know that the situation is bad in and around Monrovia."

The airport is about a 45-minute drive on a government-held road from the capital, where fighting has raged daily between Taylor's fighters and rebels battling to overthrow him. *AP*

US forces press hunt for Saddam

TIKRIT, Iraq—US forces continue to close in on Saddam Hussein and have conducted a series of ultra-secret operations in the two weeks since American soldiers killed two of his sons during prolonged gun battle in the northern city of Mosul, the military said Monday.

"It's just a matter of time. He can't stay in one place very long," 4th Infantry Division spokesperson Maj. Josslyn Aberle told reporters.

The top secret Special Operations Task Force 20—which is roaming Iraq, hunting Saddam and other high-profile targets—captured four key individuals last week in raids that were supported by 4th Infantry soldiers, Aberle said at a news briefing.

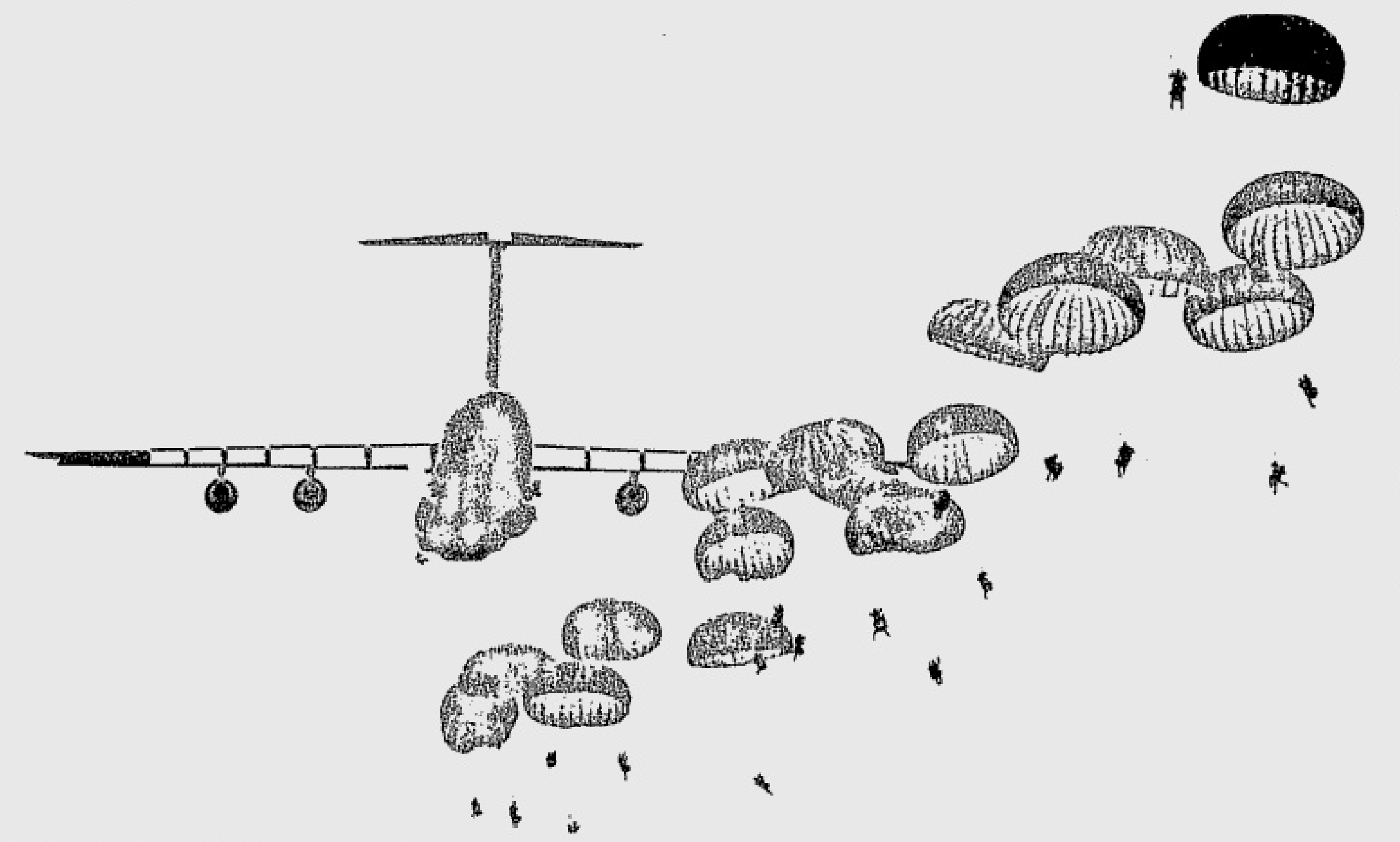
Military officials had not previously acknowledged Task Force 20's involvement in the raids.

The military would not release the four men's names or their connection to Saddam. A pair of Saddam's "very close associates" were captured on Friday during two simultaneous raids in Tikrit, the dictator's hometown, Aberle said.

Two others, described only as high-profile targets, were caught Saturday during a raid in Baiji, just north of Tikrit, she said, adding that the military was not prepared to release their names but had plans to do so eventually. Tikrit is 190 km north of Baghdad.

Soldiers believe they came within 24 hours of capturing Saddam's new personal security chief—and possibly the dictator himself—during a raid in Tikrit on July 27.

"Based on intelligence that is way above our level, we believe that we have come close on one or two occasions," Aberle said. *AP*



RANGER RENDEZVOUS WEEK

US Army Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment parachute into a field from a C-5 transport at Fort Benning, Georgia, on Aug. 3. The regiment, which is made up of three battalions out of Fort Benning, Hunter Air Force Base in Georgia and Fort Lewis in Washington, participated in the exercise that marked the beginning of Ranger Rendezvous Week. REUTERS

No 2nd term for Powell if Bush wins

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State Colin Powell and his top deputy have told the White House they will not serve a second term if President George W. Bush is reelected, The Washington Post reported.

Citing "sources familiar with the conversation," the paper said in a story for Monday's editions that Powell's deputy, Richard L. Armitage, recently told National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice that he and Powell would leave on Jan. 21, 2005, the day after the next presidential inauguration.

The Post said Powell had indicated to associates that a promise to his wife, rather than any policy disagreements with others in the administration, was a key factor in his intention to serve only one term.

Administration officials with possible knowledge of Powell's plans could not be reached Sunday evening, but it had been widely anticipated that he would serve only one term.

That would follow the pattern of recent administrations. Only George Shultz under President Ronald Reagan has served more than one term in recent decades. He took office midway through Reagan's first term and then stayed on for the second.

Powell was widely touted as a potential Republican presidential candidate after retiring from the Army as chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Clinton administration, but announced he would not run even as polls indicated he had overwhelming popularity with American voters.

Although never publicly confirmed, it was widely reported at the time that Powell was bowing to the wishes of his wife that he not be a candidate.

Powell, who turned 66 in April, has consistently declined to respond to speculation about how long he planned to head the state department, but has made clear that he has many interests beyond government service, specifically a commitment to improving education opportunities for black Americans. *AP*

4 Israelis wounded in ambush

JERUSALEM—Palestinian gunmen ambushed an Israeli car near Jerusalem, seriously wounding a mother and daughter and injuring two other children, hours after Israel dismissed a Palestinian proposal for a permanent ceasefire instead of disarming militant groups.

A senior Palestinian politician condemned the shooting attack, but an Israeli minister said Monday that Israel would not make new peace gestures until action was taken against the gunmen.

The shooting came late Sunday near an Israeli roadblock between Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Bethlehem. The military said Palestinian gunmen fired on an Israeli car, wounding a 39-year-old woman and three of her children.

The mother and a 9-year-old daughter were rushed to a hospital, while rescue workers treated the other two children at the scene for cuts from broken glass.

In a phone call to The Associated Press, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades—a violent group affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement—claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Earlier this month, Israel pulled out of part of the Gaza Strip and turned Bethlehem back over to Palestinian security forces under terms of the US-backed "road map" peace plan, which calls on Israel to pull its forces out of Palestinian towns reoccupied during nearly three years of violence. It was the first Palestinian attack in the area since the handover.

The main Palestinian groups called a unilateral ceasefire on June 29. Since then, violence has dropped significantly, but Israel charges that the militants are using the truce to rearm and regroup. *AP*

Hyundai chief in secret Nokor payoff kills self

SEOUL—Chung Mong-hun, a top executive of the Hyundai conglomerate whose business with North Korea spearheaded reconciliation efforts with the North but left his company tangled in debts and scandals, committed suicide by leaping from his office window on Monday.

Chung, 54, jumped from the 12th story of the Hyundai headquarters building in central Seoul, police said. A janitor found his body in shrubbery near a parking lot, first mistaking him for a slumbering drunkard.

Chung was on trial on charges stemming from allegations that his company, Hyundai-Asan, helped former President Kim Dae-jung's government secretly pay North Korea $100 million to get Pyongyang to agree to a historic 2000 summit between the Koreas.

Both Hyundai and President Roh Moo-hyun bemoaned Chung's death, and reconfirmed that they would continue to push for joint business ventures in North Korea. But the sudden death of the Hyundai scion, who has been a one-man drive.for the conglomerate's money-losing ventures in North Korea, cast doubt on whether Hyundai would manage huge investments that would tax heavily on Hyundai's already indebted subsidiaries.

Chung left hurriedly scribbled notes for his family and Kim Yoon-kyu, his deputy, appealing for forgiveness and asking that his ashes be scattered over Diamond Mountain, a scenic resort in North Korea where his company runs a money-losing tourism project. He also asked them to "forgive my foolish act." Only parts of the notes were released to the media, so it was not clear whether Chung explained his circumstances further.

Described as shy yet extremely ambitious by aides, Chung was once the "crown heir" of the vast Hyundai conglomerate his late father, Chung Ju-yung, had built from scratch into South Korea's largest business empire, engaged in everything from cars and ships to department stores and computer chips.

The fifth of the senior Chung's eight sons, Mong-hun, rose to the conglomerate's chairmanship in a highly unusual move in South Korea's deeply Confucian corporate society where the eldest son takes over the family's business.

In a family feud in 2000, however, his elder brother, Mong-hun, revolted and broke away from the group, taking Hyundai Motor, South Korea's No.1 carmaker, with him. *AP*

FOREIGN tourists relax in a newly reopened Paddy's Club in Kuta, Bali, on Aug. 3. Paddy's Club is one of the two nightspots that a series of bombs ripped through nine months ago, killing more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists. REUTERS

'Tell terrorists we are back'

BALI, Indonesia—Less then 10 months after a suicide bomber turned it into an inferno, Paddy's Bar on Indonesia's Bali island has reopened, staffed by several waiters who were working on the night of the attack.

Hundreds of mostly Australian tourists and expatriates packed the nightspot Saturday in a building 100 meters up the street from the spot where it originally stood.

"Tell the terrorists we are back," shouted one Australian who identified himself only as Mike.

On Oct. 12, an Islamic militant detonated a bomb concealed in a vest inside the bar, killing himself and nine other people. Minutes later, a much larger car bomb exploded outside the nearby Sari Club, killing 193 more people. Most of the dead were foreign tourists.

Several of the three dozen Islamic militants arrested over the attack have said they carried out the blasts because they were disgusted at the "sinful" behavior of the foreign tourists who frequented the strip of bars.

The new Paddy's Bar is owned and managed by the same proprietors. Many of the waiters and waitresses also worked at the old establishment, which was one of the resort island's most famous nightspots. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

New HK financial, security chiefs

HONG KONG—Embattled Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa said Monday two top officials had been installed as his financial and security secretaries, filling posts left vacant last month in the biggest crisis to rock his administration. Commerce Secretary Henry Tang was tapped to replace Financial Secretary Antony Leung, who quit July 16 after it became known he could face criminal charges for purchasing a luxury car just a week before raising auto registration taxes, saving himself thousands of dollars. The head of Hong Kong's anti-graft agency, Ambrose Lee, was named to replace Secretary for Security Regina Ip, whose resignation was announced just several hours ahead of Leung's. The appointments came as Tung struggles to rebuild confidence in a government that has grown increasingly unpopular among Hong Kong residents—a half million of whom marched on July 1 to protest an anti-subversion bill they saw as a threat to their freedoms. Many now want Tung to resign as they clamor for full democracy in a territory where ordinary citizens have no say in picking their leader. *AP*

100 percent behind Nokor leaders

SEOUL—North Korean voters who backed their leaders 100 percent in a parliamentary election displayed an "unshakable desire" to build a powerful socialist nation under Kim Jong-il, an official report said Monday. North Koreans on Sunday elected Kim and hundreds of others to the communist country's rubber-stamp parliament with total support, according KCNA, the North's official news agency. A North Korean election committee reported near 100-percent voter turnout, with all of the votes going to one candidate who ran alone in each district, it said. "This is an expression of all the voters' support and trust in the DPRK government and a manifestation of our army and people's steadfast will to consolidate the people's power as firm as a rock and accomplish the revolutionary cause," KCNA quoted a report by the election committee. *AP*

Final vote on first openly gay bishop

MINNEAPOLIS—The New Hampshire clergyman hoping to become the first openly gay elected bishop in the Episcopal Church faces a final vote Monday that some fear could prompt conservatives to leave the church. On Sunday, the House of Deputies, a legislative body composed of clergy and lay people from dioceses nationwide, approved the Rev. V. Gene Robinson on a 2-to-1 vote; a committee endorsed him by secret ballot Friday. The House of Bishops now takes up the matter. After the deputies' endorsement, Robinson said, "I rejoice with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters and all those working for full inclusion" of homosexuals in the church. He appealed to opponents not to leave the denomination, but said he would not be responsible if they did. "What binds us together is our faith," said Robinson, a 56-year-old divorced father of two. "We should not hold any one issue above or higher than our commitment to Jesus Christ." *AP*

Malacañang may lift state of rebellion …

From page A1

basis for President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of rebellion in the first place. And two party-list congressmen jumped the gun on the Senate, filing a petition with the Supreme Court seeking the invalidation of Proclamation No. 427.

In their 15-page pleading, Sanlakas Rep. JV Bautista and Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said what the rebel soldiers did last week was merely a protest action and press conference.

In a statement released by Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said: "I expect that we can lift the state of rebellion earlier than expected as we mop up the fringes of the conspiracy."

Although no specific date has been set, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the state of rebellion was likely to be lifted within the month.

He emphasized that the President's decision to lift the state of rebellion soon was based on the government's pace in resolving the "residual threat" from the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

He said maintaining the state of rebellion was largely the judgment call of the President's. "The President has information about the situation and she knows when to lift it," Bunye said.

"It is not meant to placate any particular group," Bunye added, in a pointed reference to the warning aired earlier by business leaders. They had said that keeping the state of rebellion in force indefinitely would drive away foreign investors and defer export orders.

Ms Macapagal had earlier declared that she would lift the state of rebellion only when "she was sure that the danger was over and that there were no more plotter, financier or negotiator out there."

House opposition

In a press briefing, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the Constitution did not provide for a state of rebellion, only a state of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

Allowing the state of rebellion to continue in force, therefore, was meant only to silence the opposition.

Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo City agreed that the President's declaration was meant to intimidate the opposition and stop them from exercising their function as fiscalizers.

Suplico said the President's criminal lawyers must all go back to Law 101.

"In the first place, the situation does not warrant placing the country under a state of rebellion. The President must be consistent. She said that the crisis is over. Is the rebellion over? If the crisis is over, then the state of rebellion must also be over," he said.

"There's no such animal as a state of rebellion, only the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in which they have three days to effect a warrantless arrest and charge them in court," Suplico explained, echoing the position of opposition Sen. Edgardo.Angara.

Rep. Didagen Dilangalen of Maguindanao said the declaration was already a conclusion of fact. "It is treated like a sword of Damocles hanging over our heads," he said.

Militant groups

The two militant party-list groups, in a joint press statement, said they wanted the high court to void Proclamation No. 427, which declared a state of rebellion, and General Order No. 4, which directed the military and police organizations to suppress the rebellion.

"It is equally plain to see that the long and meticulously crafted constitutional provision of Section 18, Article 7 does not provide for the proclamation of a state of rebellion," the groups' leaders said in the petition.

"When Section 18 speaks of 'proclamation,' it refers only to the placing of the Philippines or any part of the country then under martial law as opposed to the use of the word 'suspension' which refers to the privilege of writ of habeas corpus," they said.

Under the said provision, if Malacañang makes or issues a proclamation, it cannot but refer to martial law, they concluded.

"Indeed … the same constitutional provision, in the fourth paragraph thereof, speaks only of a state of martial law. Nowhere is there any mention of a state of rebellion."

The party-list groups said Malacañang was using the proclamation as a means of intimidating political dissent and opposition.

The militants also asked the high court to issue a writ of prohibition against the defense secretary and the head of the Armed Forces and the national police from enforcing the state of rebellion.

The congressmen also said they were worried that the "state of rebellion" has no restrictions and limitations.

"Thus, even as the instant petition is being argued, the so-called 'state of rebellion' may still be in force, as it is now in force, without any definite period for its lifting. It is not confined to a limitation of time, neither can the Congress exercise its prerogative of revocation over it," they said.

Named respondents in the case were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, and PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Public restraint

The President also urged the public to exercise restraint in circulating coup rumors.

Ms Macapagal said: "Let us stop the wanton exploitation of the open space offered by our democracy to destroy it. Let us uphold the ascendancy of the Republic and the people over dictatorship."

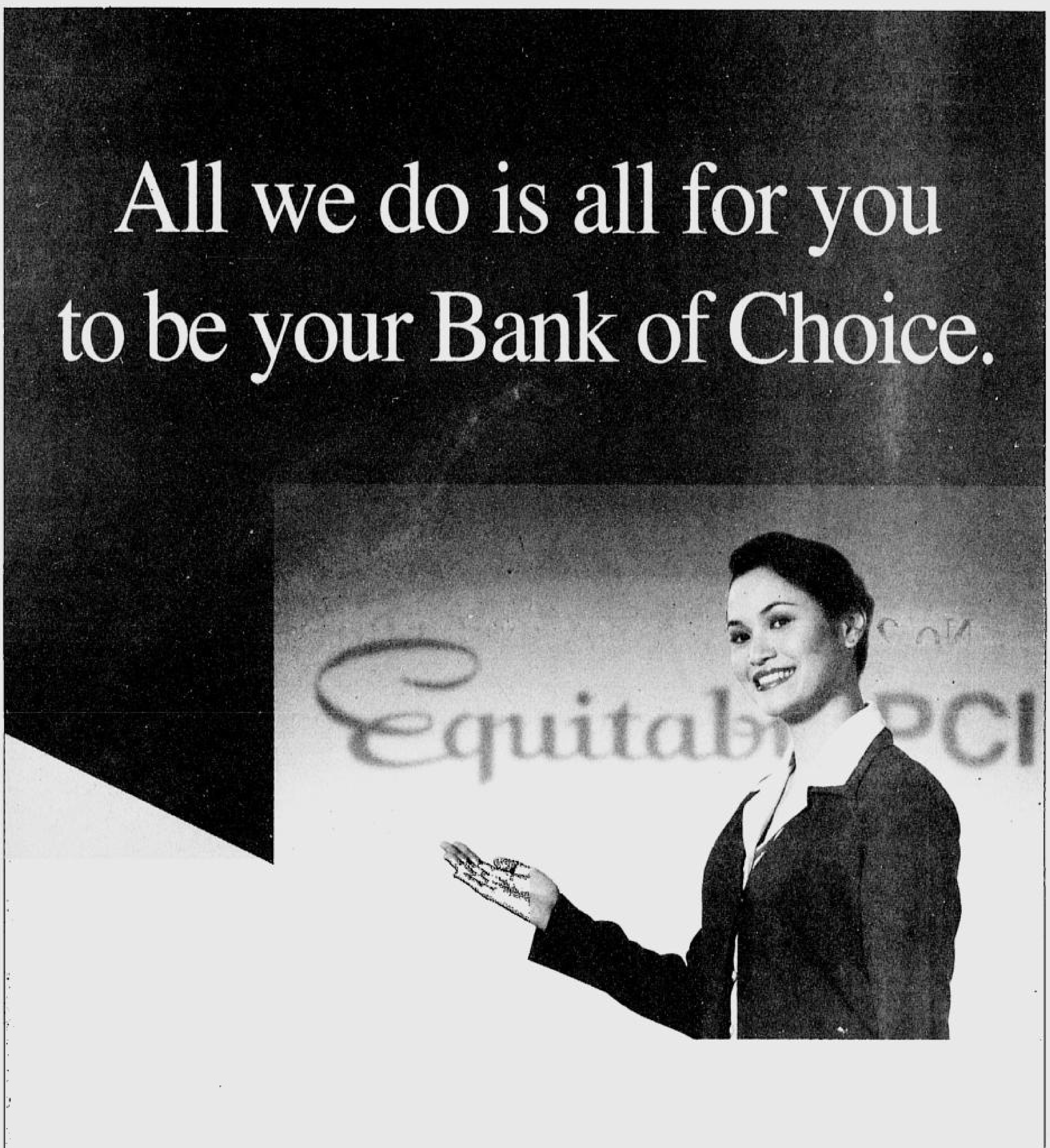
Bunye appealed to the public to be more responsible in sending messages through SMS that can only cause undue alarm, especially regarding issues they do not have any personal knowledge of.

Bunye said the AFP would itself announce beforehand any troop movements in the country in order not to alarm the citizens.

The President also said: "Terrorists might exploit this moment of public distraction to attack. I call on our people to be vigilant at all times."

Government officials are currently gathering evidence to charge alleged conspirators in the Makati mutiny including Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Bunye yesterday challenged Honasan to "denounce in unequivocal and in the strongest terms the use of arms, deployment of explosives, use of threats and intimidation, including the forced evacuation of hotel guests, as a means of presenting grievances." *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Philip Tubeza*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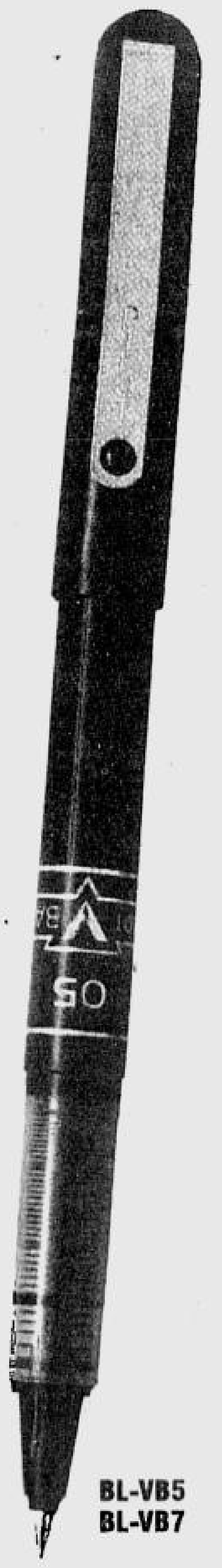

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NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
16-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.webling.com

Charges filed vs mayor, 2 execs for tree-cutting

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Administrative charges were filed last week by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources against Don Salvador Benedicto Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz and two other town officials a year after they were linked to the massive cutting of centuries-old trees in a forest reserve in Negros Occidental.

De la Cruz, Councilor David Pontillano and Barangay Captain Vicente Bacordo were charged with violation of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines and the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The DENR, in the complaint filed July 31, sought the 90-day suspension of the three and their eventual dismissal from public service.

The complaint was filed before the Office of the Ombudsman for Visayas by lawyer Virgilia Dioquino on behalf of the DENR, represented by its regional director Vicente Paragas and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Livino Duran.

No jurisdiction

Allan Zamora, lawyer for De la Cruz and Pontillano, said there was no ground for the DENR to file an administrative complaint against his clients before the Ombudsman, as it has no jurisdiction over such cases.

The proper venue, Zamora said, would have been the Negros Occidental Sangguniang Panlalawigan, where he added the case won't prosper.

Zamora said his clients were innocent of the charges, and added that he might file perjury charges against Paragas and Livino for filing a complaint based on what they just heard.

In the complaint, it was alleged that De la Cruz abused her authority and official position when she "ordered, commanded, masterminded and financed" the cutting of trees in the Northern Negros Forest Reserve in Barangay Bagong Silang of the town from April 2001 to July 2002.

The complaint said the cut trees, which were hauled in a government vehicle to the mayor's house, had a total value of P2.1 million. These were cut from an area of 22 hectares.

Links

The complaint said that Pontillano was the driver of the government vehicle that hauled the illegally cut logs to the mayor's house, while Bacordo was the paymaster and supervisor of the cutting of trees.

Bacordo's son Eden personally inspected the tree cutting, the complaint added.

It also said that the acts of De la Cruz, Bacordo and Pontillano constitute grave misconduct unbecoming of public officials and is tantamount to gross violation of the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. The complaint also alleged that the DENR has witnesses to the continued illegal logging in Don Salvador Benedicto.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PEP TALK

Messianic complex in PMA backed

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Military officers with "messianic complexes" are actually essential to the government, a top official of the Philippine Military Academy told 1,000 cadets here on Sunday.

"I don't think it's bad to have a messianic complex," Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, assured the cadets, during turnover rites for the first general to assume the post of commandant of cadets here.

Brig. Gen. Cardozo Luna, who assumed the post from Col. Arturo Ortiz on Sunday, said the PMA's critics ignore the fact that most of the academy's cadets come from the country's poor families. Luna said the PMA alumni develop this obsessive capacity to "love the country above anything else" because of this difficult childhood environment.

Adan described the Magdalo group, whose members staged the Makati City mutiny on July 27, as a few "alumni figures" whose "unlawful act" was meant to "express their grievances and protest some problems in the Armed Forces (of the Philippines) and in society."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had been vocal last week in condemning the Magdalo group's "messianic complex."

In one of her speeches, the President said a "messianic complex" had no place in the AFP.

Adan said a "messianic complex" to him meant the compulsion in a person to act as society's savior and to become capable of becoming a martyr for that cause.

Despite the "magnifying glass" that has focused the public again on the PMA, Adan said the same patriotic duty reinforces a soldier's ability to sacrifice everything, including his or her life, for the country.

He said the PMA trains cadets to "love the country above all else" because this compulsion provides the soldier "all the energy to pursue his mission, where sometimes he or she is made to take risks or even sacrifice his or her life."

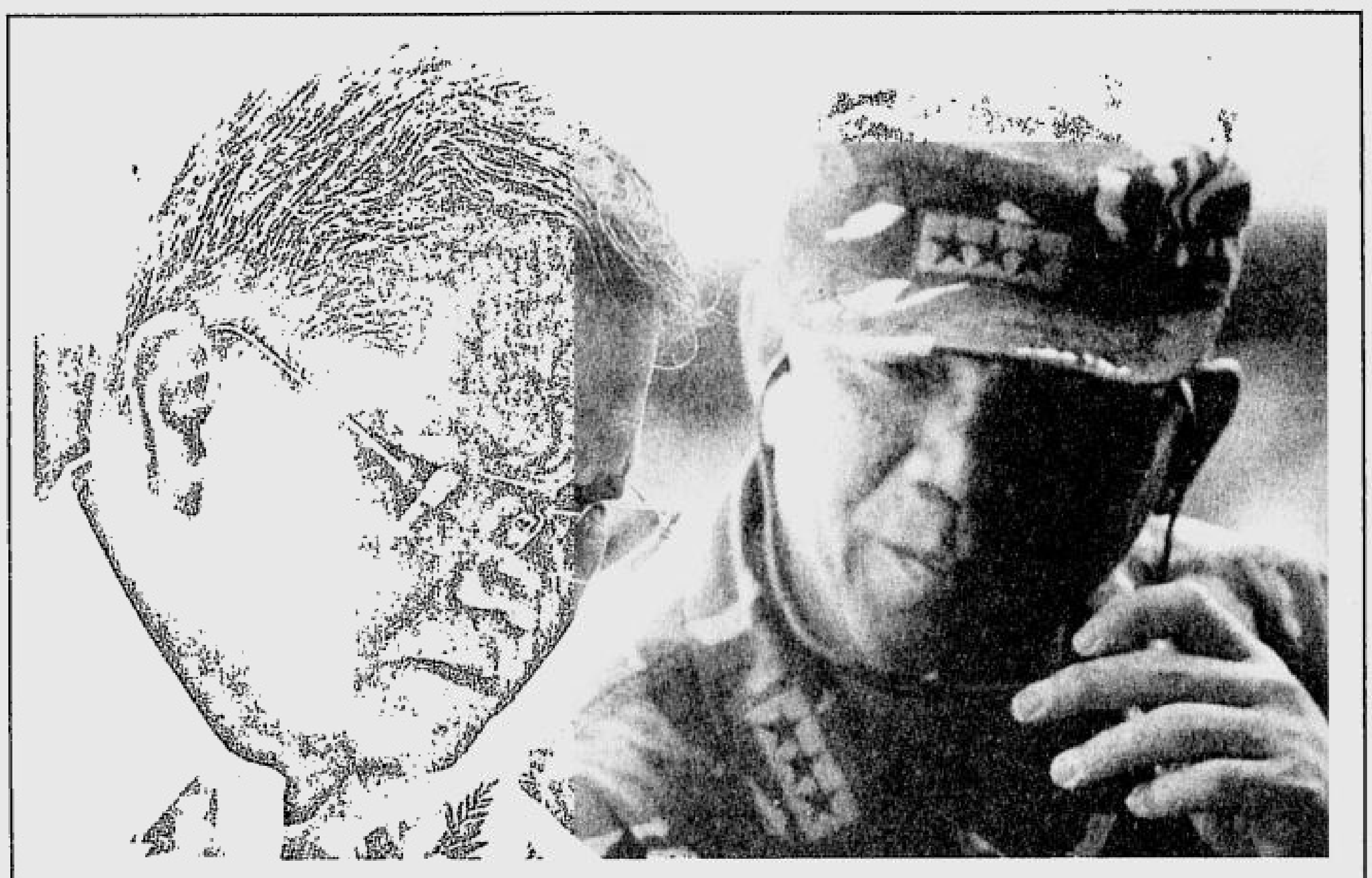
Adan later backtracked by stressing that "idealists" must still abide by the Constitution. He said military idealists are expected to "contribute" to the solutions to the AFP's budgetary and bureaucratic problems.

But PMA alumni can draw up solutions while working within the system, said Adan, a member of PMA Masigasig Class of 1972.

Neither Luna nor Ortiz, a medal of valor awardee and a member of PMA Matapat Class of 1979, flinched from making direct references to the mutiny.

Luna said the academy should take the next bold step by freeing PMA from the military rituals of the US military academy in West Point. He said the uniforms and traditional rites of the PMA make the academy an "extension of the American colonial past."

Luna, a member of PMA Makabayan Class of 1975, said he was surprised by swift changes in the academy, including the entry of female cadets.



DISASTER DRILL
Himself under siege, defense chief Reyes confers with Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southcom chief, during a disaster drill in Zamboanga City. REUTERS

Davao mayor: Reyes couldn't have done it

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday defended Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and resigned military intelligence chief Victor Corpus from allegations they were behind explosions here.

During the siege of Oakwood last week, Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes, spokesperson of the mutinous Magdalo group, said Reyes and Corpus had ordered the bombings in the city to pin the blame on the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Trillanes said Reyes wanted the MILF tagged as a terror group so the United States would pour more money into the country's defense budget.

The explosions, which occurred at the Davao International Airport in March and in the Sasa Wharf in April, has killed more than 40 people and wounded hundreds of others.

It came as a shock to the rest of the world, which perceived Davao as immune from such violence because of Duterte's friendship with rebel leaders.

After the explosion, Duterte named the MILF as the main suspect.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the lead police agency investigating the bombings, filed criminal charges against ranking MILF leaders including Salamat Hashim.

Arrest warrants had been issued against Salamat and the other suspects but because of the resumption of the peace talks, the enforcement of the warrants had been suspended.

"Reyes and Corpus can't do it even if they will grow five horns in their heads," Duterte said in yesterday's edition of his Sunday TV program "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa."

Duterte said it was unfortunate that despite their efforts to corner the bombings' masterminds, Reyes and Corpus were being pictured as the bad guys.

In reaction to Trillanes, the MILF urged Duterte to issue an apology for linking the guerrillas to the attacks.

But the mayor said there was no reason for him to apologize.

"If one day, however, it was found that the MILF is innocent, I will not only apologize but I will resign as city mayor. That's my deal. For now, I am bound by the results of the investigation of the police and the military," Duterte said. *Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Dumaguete dads OK gun ban resolution

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Dumaguete city council has banned the carrying of firearms in the City Hall premises starting this week.

Councilor Urbano Diga Jr., the proponent of the move, said he authored the measure because it was disturbing to the council members to see policemen carrying side arms when they are called to appear before the city council.

He said the council already had a similar policy since 1992 but it was never implemented.

Last week, Supt. Constanino Barot appeared before the council in complete uniform and with his service firearm. He was summoned before the council to deliver a report to the city council on the accomplishments of the police force.

In his report, Barot painted a peaceful scenario for Dumaguete, assuring councilors that the police are still "on top of the situation."

Barot appeared before the council Thursday to make a report on the city's peace and order situation.

ROUNDUP

Dengue kills 2 kids

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least two children in Barangay Conel died due to dengue, Dr. Fidel Penamante, chief of the City Integrated Health Services, told the INQUIRER. Penamante said 12 other children were hospitalized as of Tuesday. He said they conducted fogging operations and a sanitation campaign in the barangay to stop the spread of dengue-carrying mosquitoes. He said 20 cases of typhoid fever had also been reported in Conel. "Fogging is just a palliative measure. We emphasized to residents the need to maintain sanitation in their area to prevent dengue and typhoid," he said. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

223 dengue cases

NAGA CITY—A government doctor has asked local government officials to rethink the use of fogging to prevent the spread of dengue fever as the number of cases in Sorsogon City soared to 223. Ferchito L. Avelino, regional epidemiologist of the Department of Health, warned that fogging operations could be costly and dangerous to health. He said fogging at the wrong time of the day could lead to the spread of dengue to other places because dengue-carrying mosquitoes are only driven away. The most effective way of getting rid of dengue-carrying mosquitoes is by sanitation, he said.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Abaca revival

SORSOGON CITY—The Fiber Industry Development Authority and the Sorsogon Provincial Abaca Task Force is proposing the revival of the ailing abaca industry to the provincial government of Sorsogon. Daniel Lachica, Provincial Fiber Development officer, said the "Operation Sagip Abaca" program will have a P13 million fund. The program seeks to rehabilitate some 11,345 hectares of abaca plantations and replant 1,906 hectares more with abaca, which is projected to benefit some 4,044 farmers in the province.

Emir E. Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Slain by comrades

LEGAZPI CITY—A New People's Army leader was killed by his comrades in Caramoran, Catanduanes, according to Catanduanes police chief Senior Supt. Walberto L. Mandin. Killed was Anacito A. Espiras alias "Ka Sayong" of Eastern Samar. Reports said 15 heavily armed NPA rebels fired at Espiras, hitting him in different parts of the body that caused his instant death. Mandin said Espiras was responsible for rampant extortion in Catanduanes and was branded a traitor by comrades.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Search for oldies

LUCENA CITY—The city government has launched a search for the oldest clan that has resided in Quezon province's capital. Liza Alvarez, city public information officer, said the search is being conducted to give tribute to families that trace their roots to the city. She called on those who want to join to submit their respective family trees or charts, "the farthest generation they could trace back." Alvarez said the entries should be certified as true and correct by the "oldest living member" of the family before the barangay captain in the place.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3-yr-old boy, pa killed in child custody fight

LEMERY, Batangas—A man went berserk in an attempt to retrieve his son from his in-laws, stabbing his in-laws but hitting his boy instead.

Hours after, Hipolito Atienza, 34, a resident of Barangay Payapa, in this town, was found dead with a bullet wound in the abdomen.

Police could not say who shot Atienza.

Police said Atienza was drunk when he went to the house of his in-laws to get his three-year-old son Zedrick, who was in the custody of his wife's parents.

Atienza had a heated argument with his mother-in-law Gloria Aquino, 53, and brother-in-law Roldan.

When the argument got worse, Atienza drew out a kitchen knife and stabbed Roldan and Gloria who was carrying the boy.

Roldan and Zedrick got stab wounds in the back while Gloria was hit in the left and right arms. The boy was declared dead in a hospital. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 448 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Comelec warns vs plot to cheat list-up

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections has warned against masterminds of plots to cheat during the general registration of voters, saying the poll body has ways to unmask the brains behind the plots.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos issued the warning as the registration enters its last day today in the five-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"There will be no more extension," said Abalos after the July 25-30 registration was extended for six days. The extension came following requests in some areas because voters were unaware of the registration and due to technical problems in the Comelec's data gathering machines.

"We will set an example," Abalos said. He said the poll body will prosecute voters who would register more than once.

"In a month or two, we will have cases against flying registrants filed in court."

"I'll see to it that before the 2004 elections, these people are placed behind bars for committing an election offense that is punishable by one to six years imprisonment," he said.

He said offenders may write Comelec this early admitting their wrongdoing to escape prosecution. "By withdrawing your application for registration, you are forgiven of the offense and no case will be filed against you," Abalos said.

A Comelec special team will conduct an investigation of reports that hundreds of voters from this city had gone to some Maguindanao towns to register.

Nationwide list-up

Abalos also announced the start yesterday of the voters list-up here and elsewhere in the country which will last until Nov. 14.

He said the process is part of the nationwide "continuing registration" of qualified voters, especially for youths aged 18.

He said records of old voters will be validated again.

The Comelec chief visited Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Marawi City during the first six days of the list-up.

"I personally found out that people were transported to various registration centers, a clear indication of multiple registration in some areas," he said.

"We found so many multiple registrants and if they are charged, they cannot participate in the balloting," Abalos, apparently giving time to multiple registrants to change minds, said.

"Under our computerization program, any duplication of fingerprints and ID picture, deprives the (voters the) opportunity to exercise his or her right to vote," Abalos reiterated.

Under the poll body's project, the general list-up hopes to record at least 800,000 legitimate and qualified voters for ARMM's five provinces and a city. *Charlie C. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PHILIPPINE Guardian founder Chief Insp. Leborio Jangao, Deputy Director Eduardo Matillano and other Guardian officers take their oath during the filing of the rebellion case against Sen. Gregorio Honasan. RANDY HORMILLOSA

6 co-accused close allies of senator

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SIX other people charged with coup d'etat are all closely identified with Sen. Gregorio Honasan, according to an associate of the senator.

Ernesto Macahiya, Honasan's "brod" in the Alpha Sigma fraternity, helped the former Army colonel's senatorial campaign in 1995.

Although not a member of the military, Macahiya is known to have organized chapters of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. in Laguna.

The PGBI is one of the many factions of the Guardians, a fraternity of active and retired members of the military and police. Honasan is identified with the PGBI faction.

In his affidavit, Eduardo Matillano, chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, identified Macahiya as a retired colonel.

Felix "Boy" Turingan, a retired captain, was an official of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) along with Honasan.

During the Estrada administration, he was a board member of RPN 9, a sequestered TV station.

Turingan now reportedly works for Sen. Panfilo L[illegible] Honasan's classmate in Philippine Military Academy.

Matillano said Turingan was present in the June 4, 2003 meeting where Honasan allegedly finalized the plan to stage a coup with a "blood compact."

Name-dropper

George Duldulao is a staff member of Honasan. In RAM and PGBI circles, he is known to always drop the senator's name.

"He has no authority or stature to mobilize (PGBI members) on his own," said the source.

Lina Reyes is also on Honasan's staff.

The two others charged, a certain Colonel Briones and a certain retired Colonel Lazo, were identified as members of the PGBI.

Matillano said Macahiya, Reyes, Duldulao, Briones and Lazo "and other unidentified leaders and members of PGBI" led the PGBI contingents that tried to get to Oakwood Premier in Makati on July 27.

Matillano gave Macahiya's address as Barangay Calo, Bay, Laguna.

The address of Turingan, Briones, Lazo and Reyes was "c/o PGBI Office, 2nd Flr., Videospecs Building, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Duldulao's address was "c/o Office of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Senate of the Philippines."

Honasan: Charges are fabricated and false

From page A1

He was just "inaccessible" and would remain so "until this very complicated situation of a state of rebellion, this unwarranted harassment of the opposition and continued attack on the Senate are clarified."

"I'm just inaccessible because the situation is not clear and this is the second time in my political career that this happened, and so I will not take this sitting down," Honasan said.

He said he was just outside Metro Manila but stressed he was still performing his duties as a senator, including consulting sectors about his NRP, said to be the "bible" of the rebels behind the July 27 mutiny.

Honasan said he was preparing to file bills, including looking into the constitutionality of the state of rebellion and the "root causes of the issues and problems" raised by the mutineers.

The senator said he also was looking into the possibility of filing a bill that would ensure that the next defense secretary would come from the civilian sector or retired from the military service to ensure that "his influence cannot affect so much future policy."

He was apparently trying to address the mutineers' claim that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was micro-managing the military.

In his phone call to reporters, Honasan denied that he participated in a blood compact with the mutineers and that 100 Scout Rangers were guarding him.

"I was never in any secret meeting where there is a blood compact," he said, as he noted that he could produce witnesses on his whereabouts on June 12. (The government star witness against Honasan said the blood compact took place on June 4.)

In his statement, Honasan said that under the prevailing "reign of terror arising from this so-called state of rebellion, which is nothing but martial law in disguise," he could not expect justice from the administration and its agents.

"I call on the Filipino people to vehemently oppose this insidious attempt to muzzle any form of dissent in the country," he said. "Allowing these actions of the administration would spell the death of the democratic way of life, as we know it."

A group identified with Honasan also denounced the filing of the case against the senator.

"The administration is really hell-bent on trying to implicate the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. and Senator Honasan with the Magdalo group. It is a result of the witch-hunting activities conducted by the PNP and the AFP among our ranks," said Ernie Makahiya, PGBI national spokesperson.

He said the filing of the coup d'etat charge against Honasan was aimed at derailing his presidential bid.

He insisted that his group had nothing to do with the Magdalo group and that it was only coincidental that members of PGBI were at Edsa at the height of the Makati siege.

Honasan also got the support of Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, the honorary chair of the Apo Guerrero Guardians, the Guardians Brotherhood chapter in Pampanga.

Lapid said he believed that Honasan had "nothing to do" with the July 27 Makati City mutiny.

"Gringo (Honasan) went out of his way to negotiate with the soldiers. And he himself swore to his colleagues in the Senate that he had nothing to do with what happened at Oakwood. And I believe him," Lapid said.

Honasan supported Lapid when the governor's relationship with the administration of former President Joseph Estrada went sour. Lapid was sued for graft, the result of what he called the vindictiveness of Estrada. *With reports from Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SWORN AFFIDAVIT

'In ka ba o out?'

I, PERFECTO RAGIL y ANCHETA, Filipino, of legal age, with postal address at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, after having been sworn to in accordance with law, do hereby depose and say:

1. That I am a member of the Communication-Electronics and Information Systems Services, Armed Forces of the Philippines with the rank of Major;

2. That I met a certain Capt. Gary Alejano of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) during our Very Important Person (VIP) Protection Course sometime in the last week of March 2003;

3. That sometime in May 2003, Captain Alejano gave me a copy of the pamphlet of the National Recovery Program (NRP) and told me that: *"Kailangan ng bansa ng taong kagaya mo na walang bahid ng corruption kaya basahin mo ito* (referring to the NRP pamphlet). I took the pamphlet but never had the time to read it;

4. That sometime in the afternoon of June 4, 2003, Captain Alejano invited me to join him in a meeting where the NRP would be discussed and that there would be a special guest;

5. That Captain Alejano and I arrived at the meeting at past 9 o'clock in the evening of June 4, 2003 in a house located somewhere in San Juan, Metro Manila;

6. That upon arrival we were given a document consisting of about 3-4 pages containing discussion of issues and concerns within the framework of NRP and we were likewise served with dinner;

7. That while we were still having dinner at about past 11 o'clock in the evening, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan arrived together with another fellow who was later introduced as Captain Turingan;

8. That after Senator Honasan had taken his dinner, the meeting proper started presided over by Senator Honasan;

9. That Senator Honasan discussed the NRP, the graft and corruption in the government including the military institutions, the judiciary, the executive branch and the like;

10. That the discussion concluded that we must use force, violence and armed struggle to achieve the vision of NRP. At this point, I raised the argument that it is my belief that reforms will be achieved through the democratic processes and not through force and violence and/or armed struggle. Senator Honasan countered that "who are in power will not give up their positions as they have their vested interests to protect." After a few more exchanges of views, Senator Honasan appeared irritated and asked me directly three (3) times: "In ka ba o out?" I then asked whether all those present numbering 30 people, more or less, are really committed, Senator Honasan replied: *"Kung kaya nating pumatay sa ating mga kalaban, kaya din nating pumatay sa mga kasamahang magtataksil."* I decided not to pursue further questions;

11. That in the course of the meeting, he presented the plan of action to achieve the goals of NRP, i.e., overthrow of the government under the present leadership through armed revolution and after which, a junta will be constituted and that junta will run the new government. He further said that some of us will resign from the military service and occupy civilian positions in the new government. He also said that there is urgency that we implement this plan and that we would be notified of the next activities;

12. That after the discussion and his presentation, he explained the rites that we were to undergo—some sort of "blood compact." He read a prayer that sounded more like a pledge and we all recited it with raised arms and clenched fists. He then took a knife and demonstrated how to make a cut on the left upper inner arm until it bleeds. The cut was in the form of the letter "H." Then, he pressed his right thumb against the blood and pressed the thumb of the lower middle portion of the copy of the Prayer. He then covered his thumb mark in blood with tape. He then pressed the cut on his left arm against the NRP flag and left mark of letter "I" on it. Everybody else followed;

13. That when my turn came, I slightly made a cut on my upper inner arm and pricked a portion of it to let it bleed and I followed what Senator Honasan did;

14. That I did not like to participate in the rites but I had the fear for my life with what Senator Honasan said that "*... kaya nating pumatay ng kasamahan*";

15. That after the rites, the meeting was adjourned and we left the place;

16. That I avoided Captain Alejano after that meeting but I was extra cautious that he would notice it for fear of my life due to the threat made by Senator Honasan during the meeting on June 4, 2003 and the information relayed to me by Captain Alejano that their group had already deeply established their network inside the intelligence community;

17. That sometime in the first week of July 2003, Captain Alejano came to see me to return the rifle that he borrowed and told me that when the group arrives at the Malacañang compound for D-Day," my task is to switch off the telephone PABX that serves the Malacañang complex. I told him that I could not do it. No further conversation ensued and he left;

18. That on Sunday, July 27, 2003, while watching the television, I saw flashed on the screen Lt. Antonio Trillanes, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, Captain Alejano and some others who were present during the June 4th meeting that I attended, having a press conference about their occupation of the Oakwood Hotel. I also saw that the letter "I" on their armbands and banner is the same letter "I" in the banner which was displayed and on which we pressed our wound to leave the imprint of the letter "I";

19. That this affidavit is being executed in order to attest to the veracity of the foregoing and in order to charge Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Capt. Felix Turingan, Capt. Gary Alejano, Lt. Antonio Trillanes, Capt. Gerardo Gambala and others for violation of Art. 134-A of the Revised Penal Code for the offense of "coup d'etat."

Further affiant sayeth naught.

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Star witness' task: Cut Palace phones

From page A1

HONASAN

Ragil was commander of the communications battalion in Malacañang during the mutiny.

"He's detailed with me for purposes of providing communications services," said PSG commander Col. Delfin Bangit.

Ragil was executive officer before he became commander of Malacañang's communications battalion more than a year ago, replacing Col. Florentino Malijan. His mother unit is the Communications, Electronics and Information System Services in Camp Aguinaldo.

A reserved officer, Ragil was called to active duty in December 1986, according to an official who didn't want to be named.

His brief but loaded affidavit was key in the filing of coup charges against Honasan before the Department of Justice yesterday.

In his affidavit, Ragil said he was dragged into the supposed Honasan-led rebellion last May when Capt. Gary Alejano of the PSG gave him a copy of the National Recovery Program. (The NRP was the senator's platform in his bid to become the next president..The document was later used by the Makati mutineers as their "bible.")

What supposedly followed was a June 4 dinner with Honasan and junior military officers, who would later assault Makati, in a house in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The senator, Ragil said in the affidavit, presided over the discussion which concluded that "we must use force, violence and armed struggle to achieve the vision of the NRP."

Ragil said he argued that "reforms will be achieved through the democratic processes."

But what he allegedly got in return was a threat from Honasan. "If we could kill our enemies, we could also kill our treacherous comrades," he quoted the senator as telling him in Filipino.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., who facilitated the filing of charges against Honasan, was very cautious about divulging any information about Ragil besides those contained in the affidavit.

"He has a family and children and his life is in grave danger," Lina said in a quick telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

"We have to secure him first."

His idealism and professionalism were characteristics that also drew the coup plotters' attention to Ragil, according to those who know him.

"When he knows he's right, he'll stand by his decision," said one police official, who claimed he had helped build Ragil's case against the opposition senator.

His peers at the PSG agreed that he was "very professional," according to a military official who had talked to some of the PSG men.

A few days ago, Ragil was placed on floating status pending investigation of his role in the mutiny. He's under the custody of the PSG. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Coup raps vs Gringo

From page A1

"It must be emphasized that the soldiers were not motivated purely by their grievances. The real agenda was to stage a coup d'etat and replace the government," he said.

Lina said Honasan, who is now in hiding, was definitely one of the leaders of the coup attempt, the ninth military uprising in 17 years.

"There are other politicians and some financiers, and if we are given enough time to investigate, if (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Eduardo) Matillano is not again called to Congress, we will go after them," the Interior secretary said.

Asked if Honasan was going to be arrested if he came out in the open, Lina said the administration had reached an understanding with the Senate that there should first be a preliminary investigation of the case.

Lina said he was confident the government could pin down Honasan as the government had submitted to the DOJ as evidence nine sworn affidavits with corresponding annexes and a videotape of what transpired during the Makati siege on July 27.

The government witnesses include Matillano, Supt. Victor Putong Loares, Senior Inspectors Celedino Sacro and Benjamin Ducut Jr., Chief Inspector Monica Castro, SP03 Carmencito Macasaet and P03 Dahlia Carls.

Most damning evidence

Lina said the the most "damning evidence" came from Ragil.

Ragil, who is assigned to the Communication-Electronics and Information Systems Services of the armed forces, said he got involved in the plot after he met Marine Capt. Garry C. Alejano, of the Presidential Security Group.

Alejano was charged, together with Trillanes and 319 other rebels, with coup d'etat in the Makati Regional Trial Court on Friday.

Alejano and another Marine, Pfc. Rodrigo C. Fernandez, were the only PSG members implicated so far in the plot.

Lina said Ragil, who was tasked with sabotaging the PABX telephone system in Malacañang, turned state witness because he disagreed with the rebels' cause.

Ragil said he met Alejano in March 2003 while taking their Very Important Person (VIP) Protection Course. Sometime in May, Alejano gave Ragil a copy of Honasan's National Recovery Program.

He said he took the pamphlet but never got the time to read it.

Then on the afternoon of June 4, Alejano allegedly invited Ragil to a meeting to discuss the NRP with "special guests."

Ragil said he and Alejano went to a house in San Juan at around 9 p.m. and were given a four-page document about the NRP.

Trillanes, Capt. Gerardo Gambala and some other officers who participated in the occupation of Oakwood Premier apartments were allegedly present during the meeting.

At around 11 p.m., Honasan and Turingan arrived. After having dinner, Honasan allegedly discussed the corruption in government.

The senator allegedly concluded that the rebel soldiers must use "force, violence and armed struggle to achieve the vision of (the) NRP."

Ragil said he interjected and told those present that reforms could be met through democratic means and not through force. But Honasan allegedly shot down his idea.

"We will never achieve reforms through the democratic processes because the people who are in power will not give up their positions as they have vested interests to protect," Honasan allegedly said.

After a few more exchanges, Honasan allegedly became irritated and told Ragil thrice: "Are you in or out?"

"I then asked whether all those present numbering 30 people, more or less, were really committed," Ragil said.

To which Honasan allegedly replied: "If we could kill our enemies, we could also kill our comrades who will betray us."

"I decided not to pursue further questions," Ragil said.

Junta

Honasan then allegedly presented the plot to achieve the goals of the NRP by violently overthrowing the government and installing a junta.

"He further said that some of us will resign from military service and occupy civilian positions in the new government.

He also said that it was urgent that we implement this plan and that we would be notified of the next activities," Ragil said.

After the discussion, Honasan allegedly led all those present in a blood compact.

"He led a prayer that sounded more like a pledge and we all recited it with raised arms and clenched fists. He then took a knife and demonstrated how to make a cut on the left upper inner arm until it bled," Ragil said.

"The cut was in the form of the letter 'I' of the old alphabet but was done in a way that it actually looked like letter 'H.' Then he pressed his right thumb against the blood and pressed the thumb on the lower middle portion of the copy of the Prayer," he said.

"(Honasan) then covered his thumb mark with tape. He then pressed the cut on his left arm against the NRP flag and left (a) mark of letter 'I' on it. Everybody else followed," Ragil said.

Ragil said he did not want to participate in the rite but was forced to do so after hearing Honasan's alleged threat that those who betrayed the plot would be killed.

Ragil said he avoided Alejano after the meeting but was "extra cautious that he not notice it" because of Honasan's alleged threat and Alejano's claim that the rebels had "already deeply established their network inside the intelligence community."

D-Day

In the first week of July, Alejano allegedly met with Ragil, purportedly to return a rifle he had borrowed, and then told the major that the group would "arrive in Malacañang on D-Day" and that Ragil's task was to switch off Malacañang's PABX telephone system.

"I told him I could not do it. No further conversation ensued and he left," Ragil said.

Then on July 27, Ragil saw on television Trillanes, Gambala and Alejano "and some others who were present during the June 4th meeting that I attended," having a press conference "about their occupation of the Oakwood Hotel."

"I saw that the letter 'I' on their armbands and banner (was) the same letter 'I' in the banner which was displayed (during the San Juan meeting) and on which we pressed our wounds to leave the imprint of the letter 'I,'" Ragil said.

Lina said Ragil and his family are now under government protection due to threats against them.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the DOJ would study if Ragil could be included in the government's Witness Protection Program.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the DOJ would conduct a preliminary investigation, issue subpoenas and get the counter affidavits of the respondents.

When told that Honasan was in hiding, Zuño said the summons would be sent to the senator's office and home address.

PGBI members received text messages at around 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on July 26 saying that a coup d'etat would be staged that evening, according to Matillano.

PGBI members then massed up the next morning at Paseo de Roxas corner Ayala Avenue and Magallanes, Makati, from Edsa-Ayala and the Mandaluyong area-Edsa-Estrella.

Macahiya allegedly led the Magallanes group while Reyes the Parañaque group. Duldulao, Briones and Lazo allegedly led the other groups.

Matillano said the PGBI members tried to "join and provide aid and support" to the military rebels at Oakwood but were dispersed by policemen.

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Advt.

Ex-Isafp chief admits . . .

From page A1

mistake," he told journalists over dinner.

"(Making mistakes) is part of duty. If you don't take risks, you end up a mediocre (performer). So you take risks, and if it's wrong, then you quit," Corpus continued.

"If you are going to judge a person, according to Mao Zedong, if 70 percent is good and 30 percent is bad or wrong, then that is still okay. That's (a) passing grade," said Corpus, the PMA graduate and instructor who defected to the Maoist New People's Army in the 1970s. He returned to the fold after Edsa I.

Corpus had presented Mawanay, an alleged computer expert and cell phone vendor, as a state witness in the money laundering and drug trafficking cases against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Doubts about Mawanay's credibility surfaced immediately, when he claimed that Sen. Loren Legarda had bought several boxes of cellular phones from him.

Corpus also presented to the Senate a list of bank accounts allegedly belonging to Lacson and 'hacked' by Mawanay from several banks in Hong Kong and the United States. The bank accounts remain controversial.

Corpus named Wong as a drug dealer and an accomplice of Lacson's. But Wong's picture, which Corpus presented to media, turned out to be the picture of a senator's staff member.

Did Corpus' mistakes affect his credibility when he told his superiors in the AFP that a coup d'etat was in the offing?

No, he said. "If that were true, how come Camp Aguinaldo was placed on red alert?" he replied.

He said he expected other generals to deny the existence of the plot, as Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of the 6th Infantry Division, and Maj. Gen. Crisolito Balaoing, chief of the 4th ID, did before President Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed the plot on the night of July 26.

"They were right. They will be called to task if they say there is a coup and the stock market crashes," Corpus said.

Corpus resigned as Isafp chief on Tuesday, saying that his continued stay was contributing to the "restiveness" in the military. But sources close to him said Corpus decided to quit to dramatize his "disgust" with the way the AFP handled his intelligence report on the coup d'etat.

He left for Korea on the same day he filed his irrevocable resignation, which the President accepted on the same day. Corpus arrived from Korea on Friday and was feted with a welcome party by Mary Ong, also known as Rosebud, the former police agent who also turned state witness against Lacson.

But Corpus, who has assumed the role as Lacson's chief tormentor, said his fight to bring Lacson to jail for money laundering and drug trafficking will not stop with his resignation.

"*Tuloy ang laban* (The fight continues)," he said. "Let history judge who among us is telling the truth."

Business groups rally . . .

From page A1

gency meeting today (Monday)" to patch up differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Concepcion, who last week described the President's criticism of the business sector as "sweeping," said most businessmen were keen on restoring a good working relationship with Malacañang because the times called for unity rather than conflict. "We want (it) to be business as usual as soon as possible."

While Concepcion is an MBC director, however, the MBC maintained that its official representatives were chair Ricardo Romulo and Luz.

Present during yesterday's meeting were leaders of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., Federation of Philippine Industries, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry Inc., Philippines Inc., Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and Consumer & Oil Price Watch.

Many of the same groups were represented by the business leaders, including Concepcion and Ecop's Donald Dee, who came to Malacañang on the morning of July 27 to affirm their support for the Macapagal administration on live television.

In his letter, Luz said he had made it "quite clear" to the INQUIRER's Gil Cabacungan through text messages, that there was "no MBC meeting tomorrow (Monday)."

This was in response to Cabacungan's question on Sunday, Luz said.

In a separate talk with the INQUIRER, Luz said his schedule yesterday was full but did not include the meeting alleged in the report. Neither did MBC chair Ricardo Romulo call for any such meeting, he said.

But the INQUIRER had other sources who confirmed that the meeting would push through—as in fact it did, and with the presence of MBC members.

Yesterday's meeting at the Tower Club was called to map out the path for reconciliation between big business and the President

2 boys drown in Marikina

IT WAS every parent's nightmare.

Renan Abela and Jan Paul Casquio, both aged 12 and residents of Barangay Marikina Heights, drowned while swimming in the Marikina River over the weekend.

The boys' parents were furious at Christopher Capinpin, the adult who accompanied the boys and four other children to the river. But Capinpin denied he took the children for a swim. He said it was the children who invited him to accompany them.

The police are at a loss on how to proceed.

"There was clearly negligence on (Capinpin's) part," P03 Jaime Diaz said. "(Capinpin) did not ask permission from the parents and, as the only adult there, the children's safety was his responsibility. Yet what happened was an accident. *Luige del Puerto*

Trader ambushed in Pasig

KAYE Roldan tries to fight off tears when she heard the news that her father Alberto has been killed in a robbery in Pasig City.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Luige del Puerto

ALBERTO Capistrano Roldan and members of his family had survived eight previous robberies. On the ninth, Roldan fell.

Roldan, a grocery chain owner, and his driver, Alexander Junta Amondina, yesterday were ambushed in broad daylight in a narrow intersection at the back of the King Arthur's motel in Pasig City.

A witness said three men calmly approached Roldan's Mitsubishi L-200 at 8:40 a.m. on Buenaventura corner Corporal Cruz Streets, Bagong Ilog, and pumped bullets into the vehicle, said Senior Supt. Ernesto Catungal, Pasig police chief.

"I saw three people walk down the road toward the L-200 truck," said Francisco Ramos, a driver of King Arthur's motel. "One of them was talking to someone over the mobile phone. Another took out a gun and fired at the vehicle."

The gunman used a .38-caliber revolver, said Senior Insp. Rene Abella of the Eastern Police District.

The men were seen taking a small black bag, said to contain cash, from the L-200. But the robbers failed to find the rest of the money—P1,025,899 in cash—stashed under the car's chair, police said.

Roldan's daughter Kaye told police that her father and Amondina were on their way to deposit the grocery earnings in Pasig City.

When asked how much money her father took with him, Kaye said it must have been at least P3 million. The police gave the recovered money to Kaye.

Angel Bautista, the victim's brother-in-law, said the Roldans had been robbed at least eight times before, frequently at the Roldan residence in Lower Bicutan, Taguig.

He said in one incident, robbers hit Roldan in the face. In another robbery, the culprits poked a gun at Kaye.

"I was robbed twice this year," Bautista said. "This family is a veteran of robberies."

METROBRIEFS

Newborn girl shot

A NEWBORN girl is now in critical condition after she was hit by a homemade shotgun that accidentally went off in Taguig yesterday afternoon. Insp. Cleto Seriosa said Jona Estrada was holding her daughter Kaycee, 18 days old, inside their house in South Daang Hari, Barangay Bagong Tanyag, when a shot rang outside at 3:45 p.m. When she saw blood coming out of her daughter's neck, she took the baby to the hospital. Doctors told police that two pellets are still embedded in the girl's neck. Bystanders turned over to the police Nestor Melgar, 25, the man playing with the improvised shotgun (sumpak) outside Jona's house. *Alcuin Papa*

Guard slain in QC

SUSPECT Danilo Sulayao wound up in jail yesterday morning for allegedly helping rob his owner and killing the man guarding their workplace in Quezon City. Police said Sulayao and his cohort, Mando Salundar of Malabon City, were forced to kill security guard Melecio Palacio, of Batasan Hills, Quezon City, when the victim allegedly refused to cooperate with the suspects in robbing the Floor Center Ceramics and Granite Tile on Edsa, Balintawak at around 5:30 a.m. Salundar is now at large. At least P50,000 cash had been reported stolen from the cash register. Barangay watchmen collared Sulayao shortly after the robbery. *Tina Santos*

Band of brothers hunted

POLICE are now hunting down a man and his three brothers for allegedly killing a construction worker in Manila. SP02 Virgo Villareal said the four Brosola brothers of Tondo had been tagged by a witness as the ones who killed Alex Antonio, 28, of Herbosa Street. Villareal said the suspects mistook Antonio for the man who mauled one of the brothers. Antonio died at the Tondo General Hospital after the brothers used a "Rambo-type" hunting knife in stabbing the victim at around 2 a.m. *Leila Salaverria*

Grief seminar

"PASSING through Grief," a three-day seminar-workshop designed to help those who have lost their loved ones cope with their grief, will be held Aug. 15-17 at Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City. Details may be obtained from Marisa at 647-1186 (landline) or 0917-417-2774 (cell phone).

Laarni's 'close' pal to testify

From page A18

deed of absolute sale executed sometime in March 2001.

"Despite the execution of the deed of sale," she explained, "I did not exercise any act of ownership over the property."

"Neither did I ever come into possession nor control of the property at any time," she said.

Matillano said Enriquez might have come up with the purported sale so the property would not be traced to her name in case a controversy arises.

A source who personally knows Magpoc and her family yesterday said she had acceded to the supposed sale probably out of "debt of gratitude."

The Magpocs, he told the INQUIRER, were close to Enriquez and her boyfriend, former president Estrada.

The source said the family hails from Navotas where many of Estrada and Enriquez's aides and supporters are from.

The arrogant mutiny leader

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THE mutineers didn't surrender, they would have been burned alive in the high-class Oakwood apartelle in Makati's financial district, according to a congressman who's very close to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Those bastards would have been bombed into Kingdom Come. Rocket bombs would have rained on Oakwood from fighter jets and helicopter gunships and tanks would have blasted the building with their cannons," the congressman said.

The President was determined to show her authority as commander-in-chief, the source said, "even if it meant bringing down Oakwood ala World Trade Center's 9-11."

* * *

Why would GMA do that, I asked.

Because, the official said, she didn't want any casualties from loyal government troops who would be sitting ducks if they attacked Oakwood. The rebel soldiers had the vantage position.

Besides, the ground troops might be holding back in the attack because some of their commanders are friends or "mistahs" (Philippine Military Academy classmates) of the mutinous officers.

* * *

"If those jerks thought the President would not do such a thing as bring down Oakwood, they would have been dead wrong," said the congressman.

I would agree. I saw GMA when she went on TV to give ultimatum to the mutinous troops.

She looked very determined. She sounded and looked calm but firm when she delivered the ultimatum.

The President that Sunday afternoon was very much different from the GMA who went on television on the crucial hours of EDSA 3. She looked frazzled and nervous then.

* * *

Former Armed Forces chief of staff Dionisio Santiago could only shake his head at the arrogance of Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV when he and two other ranking military officers went to negotiate with the mutinous soldiers in the first few hours of the mutiny.

Santiago, a member of PMA Class 1970 and now director of the Bureau of Corrections, took note of Trillanes' behavior as he talked with his PMA elders. With Santiago were Commodore Tirso Danga (PMA Class 1975); Col. Danilo Lim, a West Point graduate; and Col. Abelardo Purugganan, another PMAer.

Santiago said Trillanes sat on his chair like a king talking to his subjects as the young officer negotiated with them. "*Wala siyang galang*, Mon (He didn't show respect)," said the retired AFP chief.

* * *

When Trillanes got overbearing, Santiago said he reminded the young officer that his three companions were not strangers to rebellious officers.

Santiago said Danga, Lim and Purugganan were detained after the 1989 coup because they led rebellious soldiers.

"*At parang hindi pa niya alam na yung mga kaharap niya ay mga* coup plotters *noon* (It seemed he didn't know that he was facing former coup plotters)," Santiago said.

General Santiago, being intelligent is different from being wise. There's such an animal as an intelligent but unwise person.

* * *

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is once again the subject of complaint from the public, this time from dealers of shallow tube wells and pumps.

The losing bidders say there is gross overpricing in the cost of the shallow tube and pumps by the winning bidder.

The project entails supplying coconut farmers with more than 300 water pumps.

* * *

Each pump costs P47,000 in the market, but the PCA will be buying it for P60,526. The overprice is P13,526 per pump.

The losing bidders say they have brought this to the attention of PCA Administrator Danilo M. Coronacion to no avail.

Baka naman may cut si Coronacion diyan.

* * *

Why is every government project tainted by an irregularity or two? The common irregularity is the overpricing of the project cost or the price of the products to be used in the project.

Almost always, the PBAC or the pre-bidding and awards committee in the government agency undertaking the project is involved in the irregularity.

* * *

An irregularity in a government agency is not possible without the connivance of the auditor from the Commission on Audit (COA).

The COA should conduct periodic lifestyle checks on its auditors, especially those assigned in agencies that undertake many projects.

One way to prevent COA auditors from fraternizing with officials of agencies where they act as watchdogs is for them not to stay long in their assignments.

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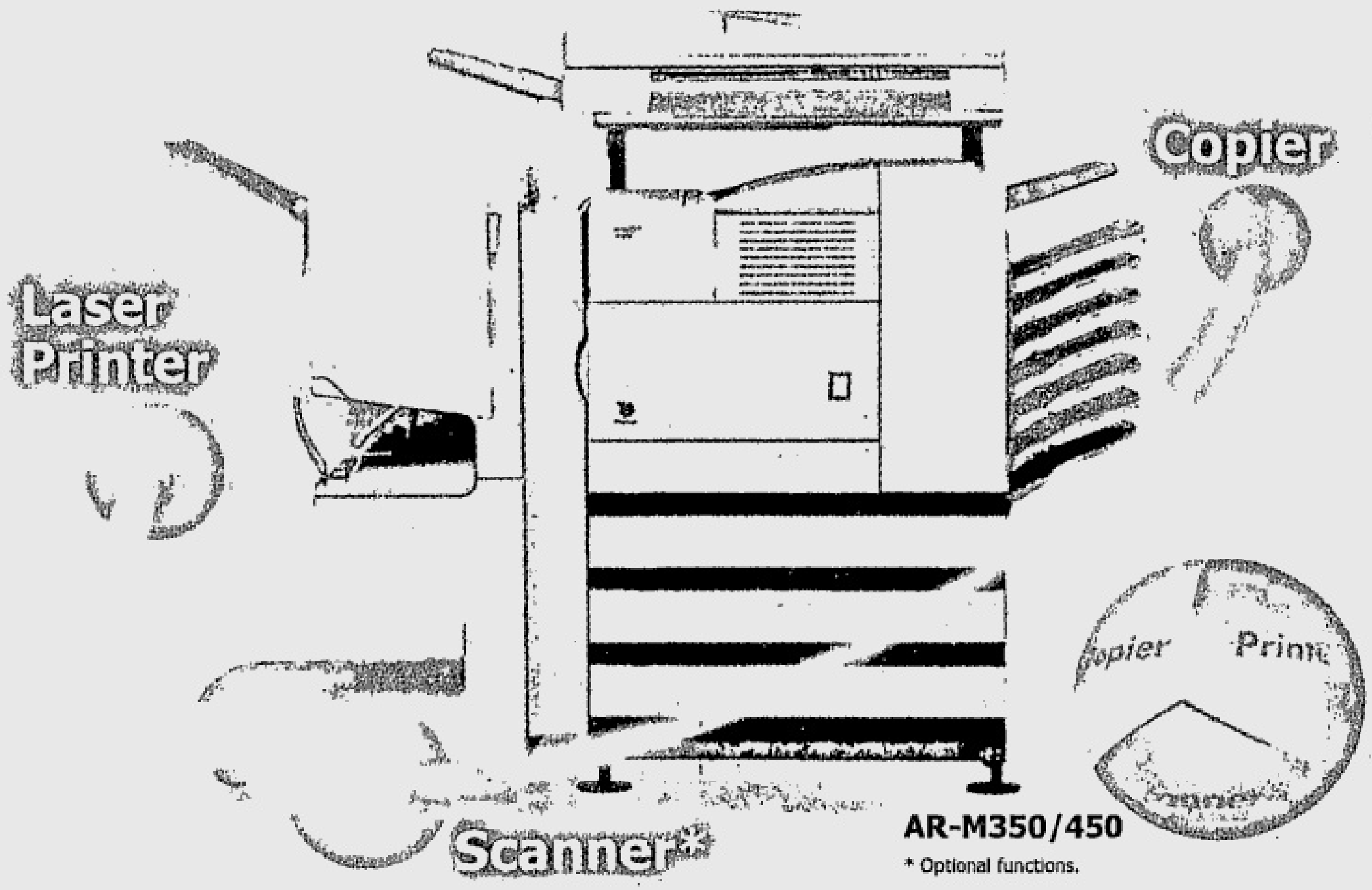

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Laarni's 'close' pal to testify

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NATIONAL Police is going to use an associate of former actress Laarni Enriquez to possibly link her to the failed July 27 mutiny.

Liezel Magpoc, described as a "close friend" of Enriquez, may be the link that would connect Enriquez to the rebellion, according to Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

It was to Magpoc whom Enriquez purportedly sold a three-storey house at 461 J. B. Vargas St., Barangay Bagong Silang, Mandaluyong City, which was used as a "staging area" of the rogue soldiers.

The police are now working on Magpoc's possible admission to the government's witness protection program, Matillano said.

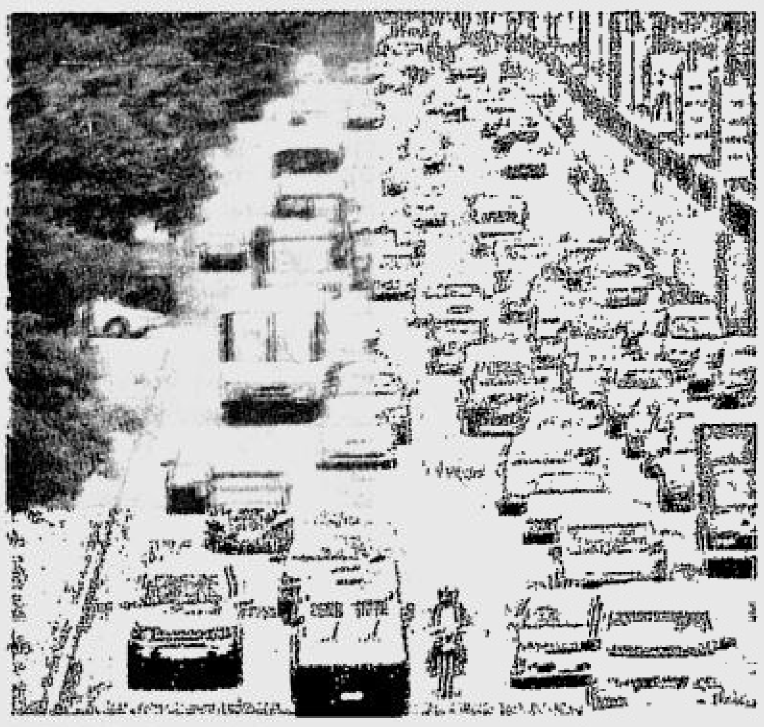
"It appears that she was simply used as a dummy to hide the fact that Laarni actually owned the house," he told the INQUIRER.

The house yielded ammunition, armbands, a Magdalo flag, backpacks and other items supposedly left behind by renegade soldiers.

In a sworn statement, Magpoc said Enriquez transferred the property's ownership to her in a

LAARNI/A17

Keep off yellow lane–MMDA



THE MMDA hopes that by next week, private and public utility vehicles would be driving on their specified lanes. Otherwise, violators would be cited and fines meted out. VAL HANDUMON

By Margaux Ortiz

WATCH where you drive starting next week. It may just cost you a traffic violation receipt and take P300 from your pocket.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando yesterday announced that they would start apprehending drivers of private vehicles who would encroach on the yellow lane on Edsa.

Fernando said this would be in line with the implementation of the single-dispatching system, which would entail the exclusive use of the yellow lane by buses and other public utility vehicles.

However, the key feature of the system, also called the Organized Edsa Bus Route, will be the orderly and systematic dispatching of buses from terminals at the endpoints of Metro Manila.

Fernando said the buses would be travelling in a single file from one terminal to the other.

The private vehicles, however, may enter the yellow lane to load and unload passengers.

"They (private vehicles) are given 30 seconds, then they should drive away," Fernando said.

He added that violators would be fined P300 aside from sanctions, which the agency and the bus operators are still finalizing.

"We are getting public reaction this early before permanently implementing the program so we can make the necessary adjustments," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair also said that the program would be implemented next Monday.

Traffic Operations Center director Angelito Vergel de Dios, however, said the implementation could be delayed until the following week should preparations bog down.

Fernando said the program would enable buses to be dispatched in an orderly manner to ensure that "just enough" units would ply Edsa at a given time.

Fernando stressed that bus operators and drivers would be able to save on gas, time and effort because they would be assured of a higher occupancy rate.

He also said that the system would eliminate "colorum" vehicles and complaints regarding buses dilly-dallying on Edsa while waiting for passengers.

Fernando stressed that the frequency of dispatching would depend upon the actual number of commuters in need of transportation.

He said "spotters" tasked to observe passenger presence on Edsa would regularly inform terminals of the need for more or lesser bus units to be dispatched.

Fernando said the MMDA would provide the equipment like electronic timers, formation boards and tickets and the manpower to enable the system to work properly.

Judge, lawyers feel the 'heat' of robbery

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A JUDGE and lawyers in Navotas will now be engaged in a 'hot pursuit' of justice.

This developed after robbers broke into the Municipal Trial Court Branch 54 and the local Public Attorney's Office (PAO) and stole two electric fans.

The two rooms were at the Sangguniang Bayan building on Naval Street, Barangay Sipac, Navotas.

Utility worker Anastacio Sanchez discovered the break in at about 10 a.m. Sunday.

He said the door at the PAO and the courtroom were forcibly opened.

Taken from the PAO was a new desk fan. Meanwhile, the courtroom lost one of its wall fans. The police estimated the two fans to be worth about P700 each.

But aside from the two electric fans, the robbers did not bother to take anything else.

For instance, PAO lawyer Galleyo said the robbers did not take his "walkman," which he left at his desk.

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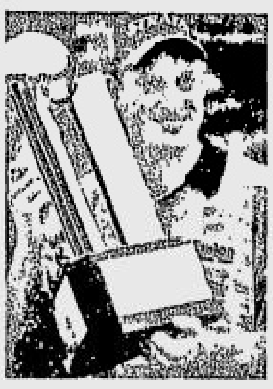
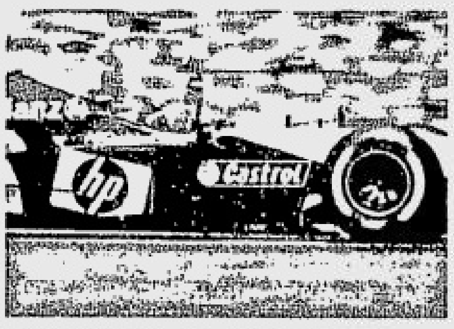
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

WHAT'S INSIDE



- Furyk fends off Tiger's late blitz /A20

- Blazers rip Bombers, leave Lions on top /A20



- Drama as Montoya rules German GP /A21

OPTIMIST INT'L

Agojo wins without swinging her clubs

JAYVIE Agojo's victory after a washed out fourth round was her second in the Optimist International. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

JAYVIE Agojo didn't have to hit a shot in winning the girls' 16-18 years division of the Optimist International junior golf championships yesterday after a thunderstorm cancelled the final round at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Agojo led by one over Mary Calderon of Orlando, Florida and was bracing up for a showdown when the rains fell without letup, rendering the course unplayable.

It was her second straight victory in the Optimist after winning the 14-15 years division last year and her third in the US in barely a month. She had earlier won in the Temecula International and the San Francisco Juniors.

She joined the elite group of RP winners in the 16-18 division that included Jenny Rosales and Dorothy Delasin, who are now campaigning in the LPGA.

She also provided the Philippine contingent campaigning in the US another big win a day after Dottie Ardina and AR Ramos topped their respective divisions in the US Kids World Championships in Williamsburg, Virginia.

"I was looking forward to the challenge but the rains came and I'm just glad to be on top of the standings when it happened," said Agojo, a senior at the OB Montessori-Greenhills.

Agojo's steady play in the US has been noticed by scouts of top universities. She has already been sounded off by authorities of two schools, the University of North Arizona and Purdue, about possible scholarship grants. *Jong Arcano*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. (r) and 7 p.m.; ESPN—Efren "Bata" Reyes is the featured pool master as he takes on Akikumo Toshikawa and countryman Django Bustamante, respectively

San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Championships; 9:30 a.m. (r); ESPN—Catch the finals of the Singapore leg of Asia's most prestigious billiards tournament

TENNIS: Masters Montreal; 7 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) and 11 p.m.—First round tennis action continues from Canada.

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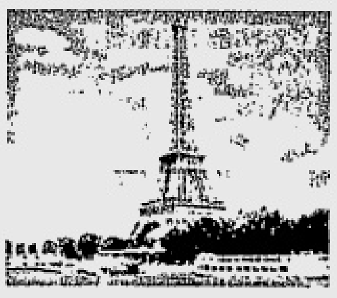
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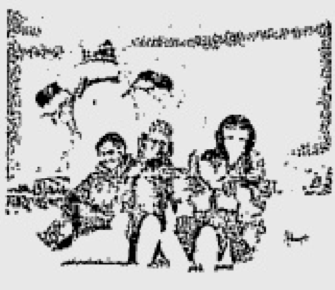
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Paragua rules France tilt; Sanchez 2nd

Final Standings

7 points—Paragua, Sanchez, Marholev (Bulgaria); 6.5—GM Ortega (Italy), GM Miladinovic (Greece), IM Mrdja (Croatia), IM Patrice Etchegaray (France), IM Alain Villeneuve (France); 6.0—Dableo, GM Chabanon (France), IM Bujisho (France), IM Benoit Taddei (France), IM Ognjan Todorov (Bulgaria), Romuald Delabaca (France), Robert Wiesinger (Austria).

THIS time, the pupil put one over the teacher.

Filipino GM-candidate Marc Paragua edged IM Joseph Sanchez, his longtime coach and trainer, via the tiebreak Sunday night to capture the XV Cannes Open International Chess Championship in Cannes, France.

The 19-year-old Paragua beat his friend and Asian Zonal champion Ronald Dableo in the final round to finish ahead of Sanchez, who settled for a draw with GM Levy Ortega of Italy, and Dimitar Marholev of Bulgaria.

Paragua, Sanchez and Marholev, who trounced countryman GM Milko Povchev, finished with 7 points each in the week-long tournament sanctioned by the World Chess Federation (Fide).

Paragua, the world under-14 champion in 1998, bested Dableo in 55 moves of an English Opening to deny Sanchez his second international title after topping the Milano Open.

"The top performances of our players justified the financial assistance being given by the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo Foundation for the training of our national players to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general lawyer Sammy Estimo. *Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

Blazers rip Bombers; Lions lead

By June Navarro

COLLEGE of St. Benilde finally remembered how to win yesterday, blasting Jose Rizal University, 90-69, in the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Blazers' first win of the season left San Beda all alone at the top as the Lions crushed the Philippine Christian Dolphins, 94-79, earlier.

Alejandro Magpayo scattered 24 points and five other Blazers struck in double figures as St. Benilde all but clinched their first victory in eight games after only two quarters by erecting a 20-point lead, 48-28.

The Heavy Bombers, who were sluggish throughout, absorbed their third defeat in eight outings.

The Lions pulled away early and cruised to their fifth straight win.

Jerome Paterno, Tim Ong, Marvin Baldivia and Carlo Weber took over in the second half for the Red Lions, who fortified their hold of the lead at 6-2.

Cordero, who led all scorers with 19 points, mocked PCU defenders with an assortment of shots inside the paint to power the Lions to a 21-14 lead.

The Dolphins dropped their second straight outing and now stood at 3-5.

Ronnie Bughao backed up Arjun Cordero by chipping in 13 points, hauling seven rebounds, issuing five assists and pulling off three steals.

The Red Cubs zoomed to an 8-0 record after thrashing the Baby Dolphins, 78-60, in the curtain-raiser. The Baby Dolphins fell to 2-6.

In the other junior game, Gini Villame scored 18 points and Gelo Sibug added 16 as the CSB Greenies drubbed the Light Bombers, 83-70, for their fifth win in eight games. The Light Bombers dropped to 1-7.

GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs Letran (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs SSC-R (srs/jrs)

First Game (Srs)

SBC 94—Cordero 19, Bughao 14, Apepe 13, Paterno 10, Ong 9, Baldivia 7, Weber 6, Bombeo 5, Cruz 3, Arbole 3, Padilla 2, Hudencial 2, Antonio 1, Angeles 0.

PCU 79—Roque 17, Benitez 16, Guiyab 12, Garrido 8, Retaga 7, Castro 7, Sanz 6, Senining 4, Acraman 2, Salangsang 0, Belga 0.

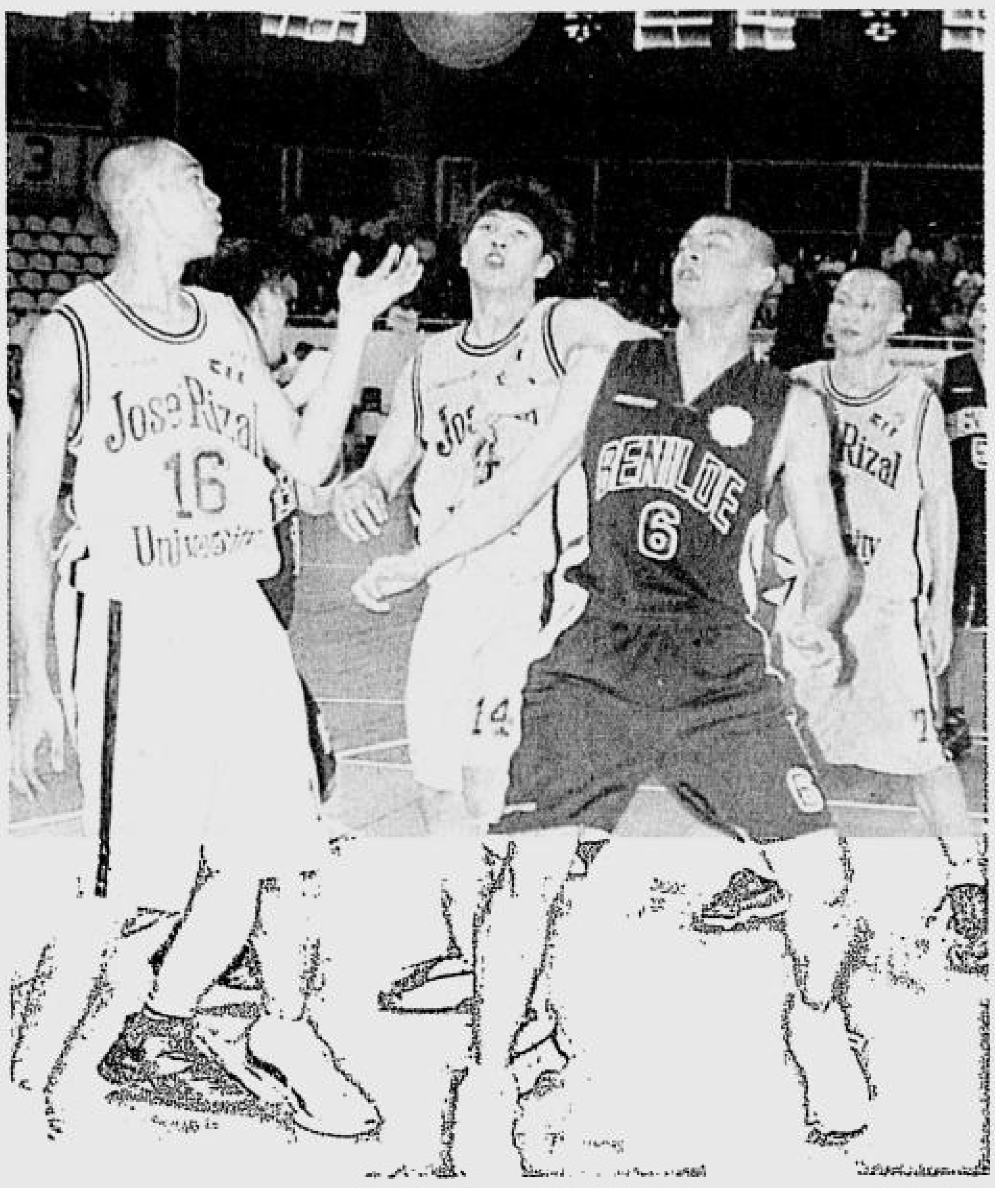
Quarters: 21-14, 49-42, 75-62, 94-79

Second Game (Srs)

CSB 90—Magpayo 24, Sanidad 14, Capati 13, Orbeta 11, Abad 10, Good 10, Robles 4, Rivera 2, U. Reyes 2, Turbella 0, Ang 0, Quizon 0.

JRU 69—Fajardo 18, Lindaya 11, De Vera 10, Santos 8, Te 8, Altunaga 5, Domangcas 4, Jorge 2, Coyukang 2, Paule 1, Serios 0, Borboran 0.

Quarters: 24-14, 48-28, 67-53, 90-69



ST. BENILDE'S Alejandro Magpayo contest a loose ball with three JRU Bombers. RUDY ESPERAS

Sizzling start by Lady Archers; Adamson up

FOUR-TIME winner La Salle opened its campaign for the "five-peat" in overpowering fashion last Sunday, crushing Santo Tomas, 86-69, in the UAAP women's basketball tournament at the Adamson Gym.

Aimee Jane Mañosca, Kristine Marie Prado and Victoria Galan finished in double figures as La Salle protected a 41-36 halftime lead.

Adamson, beaten by La Salle in last year's title series, surged to its second straight win by dumping Far Eastern, 107-66.

Ateneo downed University of the East, 65-43, after its 68-66 squeaker over University of the Philippines was reversed when the technical committee found out that the Lady Eagles broke a rule on the use of foreign players.

Dubbed as this year's top favorite, Adamson did not disappoint with a display of firepower. The Lady Falcons also drubbed UE, 109-39, on July 20. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Career Grand Slam for Annika

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England—The pressure was intense. The goal was to find the fairway.

Annika Sorenstam had been in this situation three months ago at Colonial, where she could barely take the club back for an opening tee shot that made her the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour.

The stakes were even higher Sunday at the Women's British Open.

The reward was simply grand.

Her clutch drive on the 18th hole set up a routine par Sunday, giving Sorenstam a one-stroke victory over Se Ri Pak and another place in the LPGA Tour record book as only the sixth woman to complete the career Grand Slam.

"I felt the pressure, but then I felt this is what it's all about—to play in a major championship where you have to perform," Sorenstam said.

Sorenstam took the lead for the first time with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 11th. Pak battled back to tie with birdies on the 12th and 16th holes, but the South Korean stumbled on the tough closing hole.

Trying to play it safe, Pak hit a 3-wood that trickled into a pot bunker, leaving her no chance to reach the green. Sorenstam thought about a 7-wood to avoid the same mistake.

"I can hit this drive down the middle and have a short iron in. It was really the key shot of the day," she said.

Pak missed her par putt, and Sorenstam two-putted from 10 feet for par. She closed with a 2-under 70 and finished at 10-under 278.

Sorenstam won the US Women's Open in 1995-96, and the Nabisco Championship in 2001-02. Since playing in the Colonial she won the LPGA Championship in a playoff over Grace Park, and held off a group of stars to win the Women's British Open.

"I've won another major, and now I've won all four," she said.

Karrie Webb, Juli Inkster, Pat Bradley, Mickey Wright and Louise Suggs are the only other women with career Grand Slams. *AP*

Jenny ties for 24th

JENNIFER Rosales returned a one-over-par 73 and tied for 24th at 290. She won $15,380 (about P850,000) to raise her season earnings to $323,516.

Three-putt bogeys on the first and fourth holes spoiled Rosales' bid for a better finish.

"She had so many birdie chances but the putts just didn't drop. The bogey on the 18th was quite unfortunate because she was already at greenside," said Bong Lopez, Jenny's swing coach. *Jong Arcano*

SEAG Task Force to screen coaches

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S NOW the coaches' turn to justify their inclusion to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

National coaches in the 28 sports where the country is entered will be interviewed by the SEA Games Task Force starting tomorrow to determine the extent of their duties and responsibilities during the Dec. 5-13 Games.

Task Force chief Steve Hontiveros said only the coaches, trainers and other vital support staff needed in Vietnam will be accredited since the body's main task is to send the best possible team to the Games.

The Task Force had earlier announced that the respective heads of the 28 national sports associations and their athletes who have made it to the 377-strong RP contingent so far will be asked to predict how many medals they hope to win this time.

The Philippine Sports Commission, which is financing the SEAG campaign, expects 40 to 60 gold medals to secure a third place overall finish.

FURYK: Second win of the season.

Furyk fends off Tiger's late blitz

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—US Open champion Jim Furyk shot a four-under-par 68 and held off a late charge from world number one Tiger Woods to win the $4 million Buick Open on Sunday.

Furyk finished at 21-under 267, winning by two strokes over Woods (66), Australia's Geoff Ogilvy (65), Briny Baird (66) and Chris DiMarco (67).

It was the 33-year-old Furk's second win of 2003 and ninth PGA Tour career win. He moved within $400,000 of Woods ($4.8 million) in the money list.

Paul Goydos (68) and Neal Lancaster (69) finished tied for sixth at 18-under 270.

Woods cut the lead to two with a birdie on the par-five 16th but missed birdie attempts on the last two holes. *Reuters*

Henman, Ferreira end victory drought

HENMAN

WASHINGTON—Tim Henman of Britain swept past Chilean Fernando Gonzalez, 6-3 6-4, to capture his 10th career title at the $600,000 Washington Classic on Sunday.

The 28-year-old Henman, who upset second seed Andy Roddick in the semifinals, last raised a singles trophy in January 2002 in Australia.

In Los Angeles, Wayne Ferreira overcame three match points, a groin injury and searing heat to beat top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in the Mercedes-Benz Cup final.

It was Ferreira's first ATP Tour title in three years. Ferreira, 31, and 33-year-old Andre Agassi (four titles) are the only over-30 players to win events this year. *Reuters; AP*

Controversial win

HENIN

CARLSBAD, California—Third seed Justine Henin-Hardenne won the "Battle of Belgium," beating fellow countrywoman Kim Clijsters, 3-6 6-2 6-3, in a controversial final at the $1 million Acura Classic on Sunday.

After the match the two Belgian Fed Cup teammates became involved in a dispute about whether a medical timeout Henin-Hardenne took was legitimate. Clijsters was not pleased.

"She's done it in every match I've played against her," Clijsters said. *Reuters*

P. Rico nips US five

SANTO DOMINGO— Carlos Arroyo scored 24 points and Sharif Fajardo added 19 as Puerto Rico beat the United States 86-85 at the Pan American Games in men's basketball. *AP*

Xia foils Wong's bid

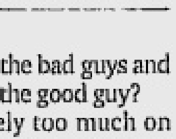
BIRMINGHAM, England— Xia Xuanze won a hard-fought World Badminton Championship decider Sunday, ending Wong Choong Hann's bid to be the first Malaysian to win the event. Xia won, 15-6, 13-15, 15-6. *AP*

China tossers are it

ANDRIA, Italy—Playing with a significant disadvantage in height and experience, China routed top-ranked Russia, 25-22, 28-26, 25-21, on Sunday to capture its first ever World Grand Prix in women's volleyball. *AP*

Just one man, just one American

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

IT is bad enough that the PBA has been having a bad season under Commissioner Noli Eala.

There's the Fil-Shams being paraded as Fil-Ams.

The drug testing brouhaha that saw Eala and the PBA being haled to court.

A weird season-opening format that penalized the strong and rewarded the weak.

An Invitational series that invited patsies, if not a bunch of tourists disguised as cagers. No wonder they were exempted from drug testing. In times of misery, a double-standard rule on drug testing is what the PBA needs to lure the fans back to Asia's first professional basketball league. Never mind if the homegrown heroes are at the receiving end of it all.

The Letter of Credit snafus with NBN 4.

Bad TV ratings. Dwindling gate receipts.

But you ain't seen nothin' yet, fellas.

Take this: Eala has fired three PBA referees. Allegedly without due process.

Ah, does that not take the cake?

The newspaper reports said Eala fired referees Alex Tangonan, Efren Garferio and Meynard Ballecer last March. Eala fired them upon the recommendation of an American referee.

Uh-oh. One referee. One American.

The report said the American conducted a seminar for referees. At the end of the seminar, the American found Tangonan, Garferio and Ballecer unfit to continue officiating in the PBA. Just like that.

Maybe the three Filipinos forgot to address the American "Victory Joe" each time they met him before the sessions began?

My eye.

Tangonan has been a PBA referee for 12 years or so, Garferio nearly 10 years or so, Ballecer 7 years or so.

In one fell swoop, those 30 years or so were flushed down the drain. By just one man. By one American.

What have we got here, George W. Bush?

Even Superman needed a Lois Lane to help fight the bad guys.

Were the three referees the bad guys and the lone American referee the good guy?

We never learn. We rely too much on foreign judgment to remedy a perceived problem. No matter that it involved only a judgment by one man.

Colonialism, like the weed, is hardest to kill. No wonder the Spaniards stayed with us 400 years or so. No wonder the Americans are still with us, nearly sixty years since we achieved our so-called independence.

The problem here was never the three referees. Neither was the lone American referee. If, in the estimation of the American referee, the three Filipino referees weren't good, fine. That's his opinion.

But to treat his opinion as gospel truth and then accept it hook, line and sinker is to say that Ate Glo had ordered the bombing of Davao. Maybe because the referee is an American and Americans are supposed to be always superior to our "little brown brothers?"

I can't accept that.

Let's reverse the situation.

A Filipino referee gets invited to hold a referees' seminar in America. Afterward, he'll declare three American referees unfit to continue blowing the whistle. You think the three Americans will take that sitting down?

You bet, they wouldn't.

Since when are Filipinos supposed to be superior to the Americans?

The Americans reign, or think they are in command all the time, because of people like Eala, a bespectacled lawyer of 40 summers. Having said that, what seems to be the PBA's main problem? Or better yet, who is the league's main problem?

You don't need to look far.

But, hey, cut that crap, will you?

Stop looking at me. I wear no eyeglasses.

***

FASTBREAK. Tomorrow, I am supposed to be a special guest of Gonzalo "Gonz" Duque, that brilliant lawyer who is president of Lyceum Northwestern University, the undisputed No. 1 school of learning in the North. Gonz is spearhead of tomorrow's blast-off of the Ucaap (Universities and Colleges Athletic Association of Pangasinan) championships at 12:30 p.m. at the Dagupan Astrodome. "I'll treat you to the most delicious 'sisig' in the world—the 'bangus sisig' of Dagupan City," he said. I'm dying really to have a bite of that. Unfortunately, I couldn't make it. But as usual, Gonz will understand. Not tomorrow, Gonz. But I promise you, the next time I'll be in Dagupan City, you'll be first in my priorities. Who knows, you might one day even invite me to be a once-a-week lecturer in your prestigious university. It's a deal, kaaro?

MONTOYA waves from the cockpit of his Williams following his victory in the accident-marred German Grand Prix. REUTERS

Montoya wins from pole slot

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—Juan Pablo Montoya came out on top of both Schumacher brothers in his German Grand Prix victory on Sunday.

In winning his second race of the season by a surprisingly comfortable 67 seconds, Montoya narrowed Michael Schumacher's championship lead to six points with four races remaining.

Montoya also turned what had been a tight two-point lead over Williams team mate Ralf Schumacher into a 12-point edge.

The only title contenders without a clear pecking order, Williams found themselves confronted with questions about their strategy for the final four races—should Ralf's diminished title hopes be sacrificed for Montoya.

"We're quite pleased to be in this position and we will have to sit down and calmly assess the situation," said BMW motorsport director Mario Theissen when asked if Williams would use 'team orders' to help Montoya.

World champion Michael Schumacher was in second place three laps from the finish when a puncture forced him to make a pit stop and left him in seventh with two points, rather than eight.

Ralf was also punished by race stewards who said that he had caused an avoidable collision—they said they would 'drop' him 10 places on the grid for the next race, the Hungarian Grand Prix in three weeks time. *Reuters*

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TCM 75-3A
20 TANKERS
ISUZU CXM 10KL TANKER
20 TRACTOR HEADS
INTERNATIONAL 6W TRACTOR HEAD
200 DUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU FTR 8 STUD 4X4 DUMP TRUCK
10 CRANE TRUCKS
HINO RANGER 7 TONS CRANE
180 ALUMINUM VANS
FUSO CANTER ALUMINUM VAN
150 CARGO TRUCKS
ISUZU NKR SINGLE TIRE
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MONTOYA waves from the cockpit of his Williams following his victory in the accident-marred German Grand Prix. REUTERS

Montoya wins from pole slot

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—Juan Pablo Montoya came out on top of both Schumacher brothers in his German Grand Prix victory on Sunday.

In winning his second race of the season by a surprisingly comfortable 67 seconds, Montoya narrowed Michael Schumacher's championship lead to six points with four races remaining.

Montoya also turned what had been a tight two-point lead over Williams team mate Ralf Schumacher into a 12-point edge.

The only title contenders without a clear pecking order, Williams found themselves confronted with questions about their strategy for the final four races—should Ralf's diminished title hopes be sacrificed for Montoya.

"We're quite pleased to be in this position and we will have to sit down and calmly assess the situation," said BMW motorsport director Mario Theissen when asked if Williams would use 'team orders' to help Montoya.

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20 TANKERS — ISUZU CXM 10KL TANKER

20 TRACTOR HEADS — INTERNATIONAL 6W TRACTOR HEAD

200 DUMP TRUCKS — ISUZU FTR 6 STUD 4X DUMP TRUCK

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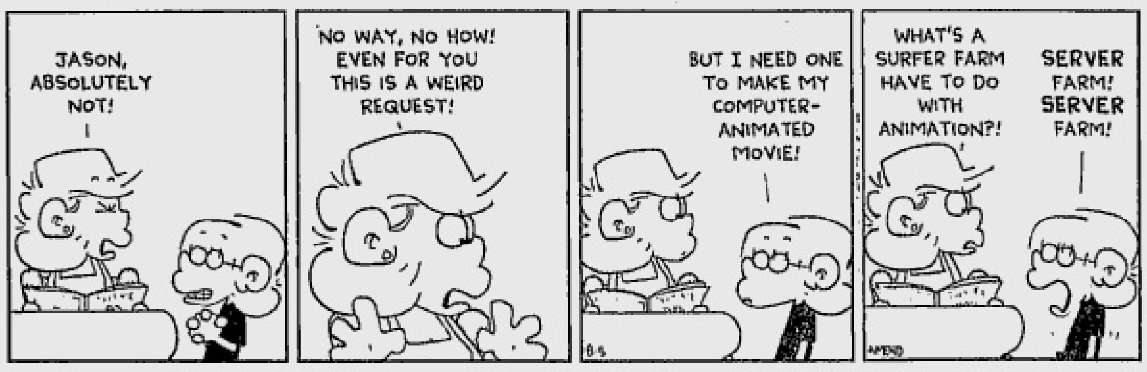
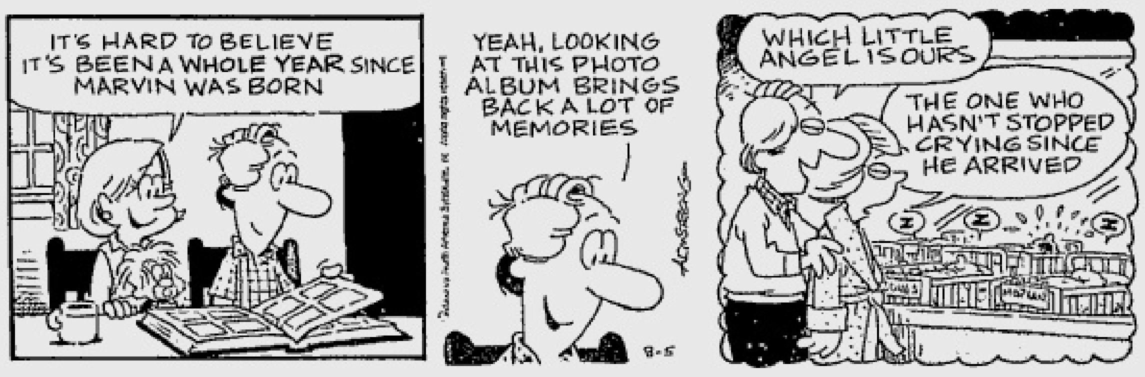
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, ABSOLUTELY NOT!
NO WAY, NO HOW! EVEN FOR YOU THIS IS A WEIRD REQUEST!
BUT I NEED ONE TO MAKE MY COMPUTER-ANIMATED MOVIE!
WHAT'S A SURFER FARM HAVE TO DO WITH ANIMATION?!
SERVER FARM! SERVER FARM!
8-5
AMEND

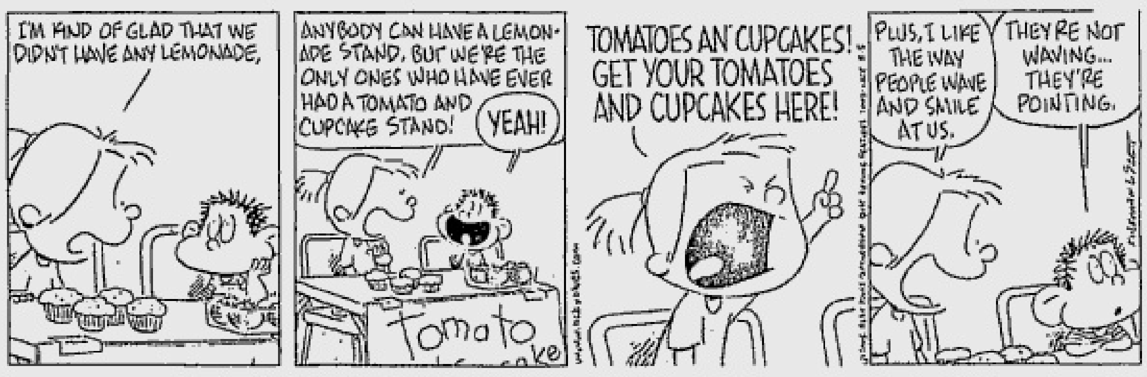
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE MARVIN WAS BORN
YEAH, LOOKING AT THIS PHOTO ALBUM BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES
WHICH LITTLE ANGEL IS OURS
THE ONE WHO HASN'T STOPPED CRYING SINCE HE ARRIVED
ARMSTRONG
8-5

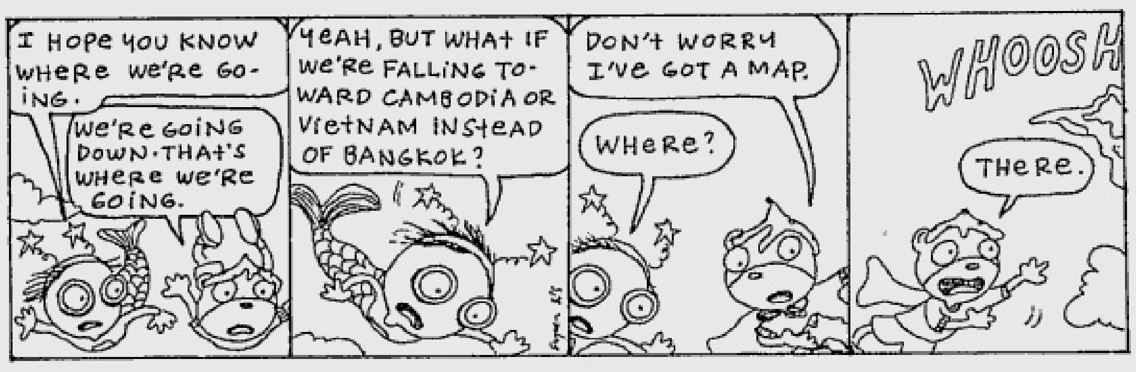
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M KIND OF GLAD THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY LEMONADE,
ANYBODY CAN HAVE A LEMONADE STAND, BUT WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE EVER HAD A TOMATO AND CUPCAKE STAND!
YEAH!
Tomato
TOMATOES AN' CUPCAKES! GET YOUR TOMATOES AND CUPCAKES HERE!
PLUS, I LIKE THE WAY PEOPLE WAVE AND SMILE AT US.
THEY'RE NOT WAVING... THEY'RE POINTING.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I HOPE YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING.
WE'RE GOING DOWN. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.
YEAH, BUT WHAT IF WE'RE FALLING TOWARD CAMBODIA OR VIETNAM INSTEAD OF BANGKOK?
DON'T WORRY I'VE GOT A MAP.
WHERE?
WHOOSH
THERE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are resolved and firm. Your style is always direct and dignified, which is why you appear to be in control. But, you need a lot of freedom. The reason you develop strong mastery over yourself is because you have such strong feelings. Many things will wrap up this year in order to create room for new beginnings.
Birthdate of: Sidney Omarr, astrologer; Neil Armstrong, astronaut; Loni Anderson, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Tread carefully, and practice patience today and for the next few days. You might feel extra stress from your particular living situation. Give yourself little "resting" moments to mellow out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Partners and family members might be a little grumpy today about domestic issues. You don't have to be their "grumble" servant. Keep to yourself if you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Take extra care and caution when driving and walking today. Minor irritations could distract you from concentrating on what you're doing. Stay alert.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon rules you, and today the Sun and Jupiter briefly challenge it. It's no big deal. It's like getting hit on the head with a pillow. Nothing to worry about—just go gently along.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might be inclined to exaggerate or overdo things today, especially as the day wears on. Since you are often dramatic and theatrical by nature, be aware of this tendency today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You will have to summon up extra energy to maintain a reasonable level of politeness with siblings, relatives and daily contacts. Your knee-jerk reaction is to be flippant or sarcastic. Not a good idea.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't make important decisions about money with a friend today. And don't pick up the tab for a friend. Generosity is a wonderful thing, but today you are inclined to be excessive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a strong desire to talk to bosses and important people today. With the Moon in your sign now, you are relatively protected. Nevertheless, be prudent.

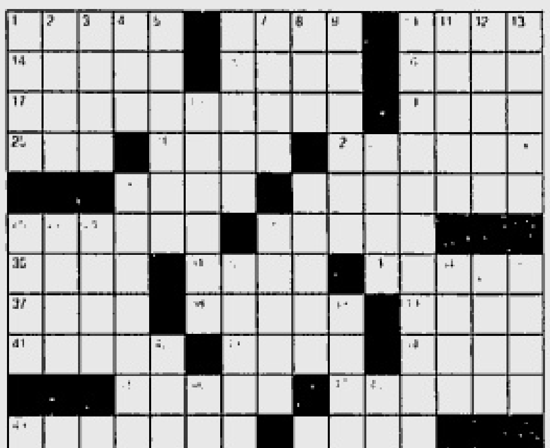
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are definitely tempted to go overboard about something today. Your ruling planet, Jupiter, squares the Moon. This makes you want to throw caution to the wind. Don't do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be conservative about decisions relating to shared resources and joint property. Don't be tempted to do something you don't feel good about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If someone important promises you the Moon today, accept it, but be prepared for disappointment. Some people will promise more than they can deliver today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can get a lot done at work today. Expect some resistance with foreign countries, publishing, the media and higher education. (Small stuff, really.)

DAILY CROSSWORD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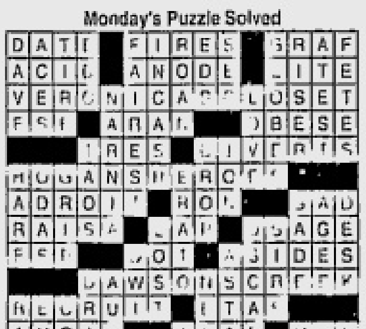
By Mark Moldowsky
Huntington, NY
8/5/03

ACROSS
1 Trails
6 Beef and moan
10 Corn holders
14 In the offing
15 Wallet fillers
16 Leave out
17 Typescript duplicate
19 Hemingway's sobriquet
20 Afore
21 Compact Dodge
22 Coded message
24 Antitoxins
25 Fashionable duds
26 Diamond official
29 Courting man
30 Provide a roof
31 Laptop image
33 Give birth to
37 Centers of attention
38 Discourage
40 Oh, yeah
41 Aircraft surveillance acronym
43 Jubilant gaiety
44 Bartlett or Bosc
45 Exclaimed with delight
47 Chicken?
49 Cup of the NHL
52 Avails oneself of
53 Containing lime
54 Risked getting a ticket
55 The man just mentioned
58 Asian nursemaid
59 Superman's bane
62 Actress Rogers
63 Sole
64 Dramatic parts
65 Swill
66 Water pitcher
67 Cooking smell

DOWN
1 Walk the carpet
2 Yonder
3 Dashed
4 Fireplace shelf
5 Rock thrower
6 Hot chocolate
7 In a little while
8 Corded fabric
9 Hitchcock film
10 Water conduits
11 Nebraskan city
12 Two-footed animal
13 Constellation components
18 Water nymph
23 Furies
24 Integrated circuit in a computer
25 Heavy British weight
26 Sch. for Bruins
27 Tabby talk
28 Type size
29 "The Man Who Be King"
32 Shrewd
34 Aboard ship
35 Have on
36 Geek
39 Silver server
42 Anas, often
46 Try to rattle a performer
48 Felt hat with a brim
49 Con man's tricks
50 Dravidian tongue
51 Texas shrine
52 Berth choice
54 "Auld Lang
55 Hawaiian seaport
56 Object
57 Tableland
60 Ticket info
61 Neither fish fowl

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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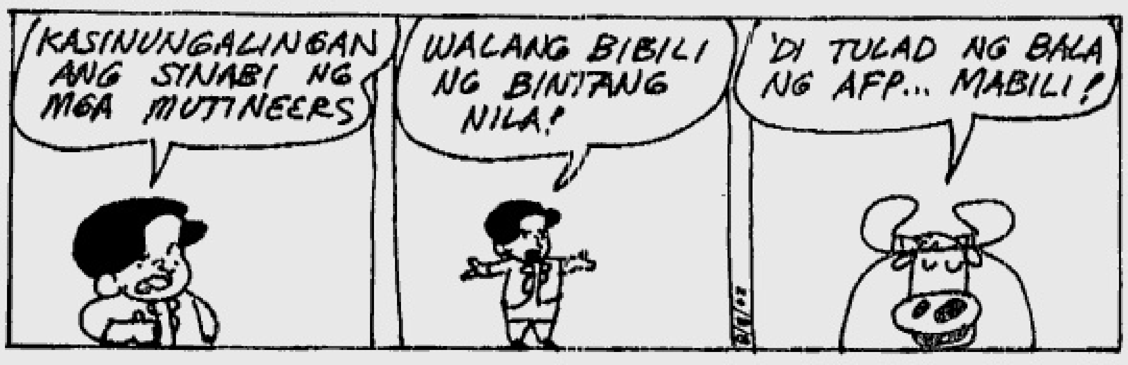
8/5/03

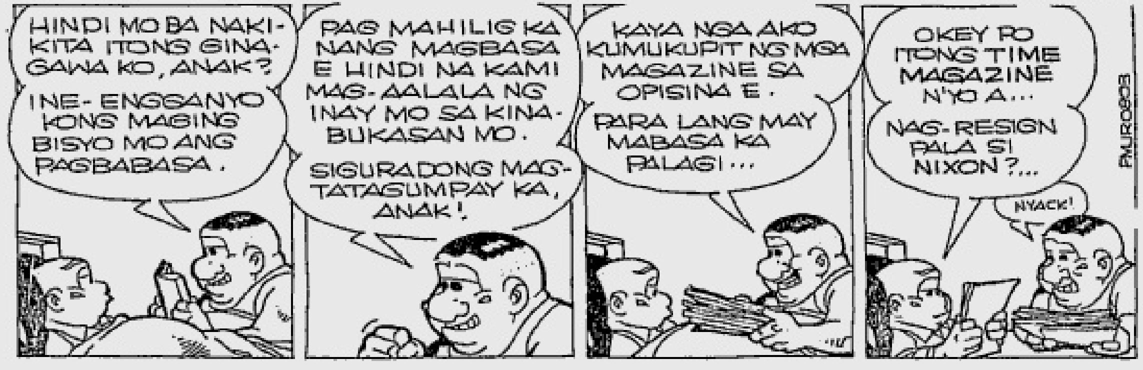
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KASINUNGALINGAN ANG SINABI NG MGA MUTINEERS
WALANG BIBILI NG BINTANG NILA!
'DI TULAD NG BALA NG AFP... MABILI!

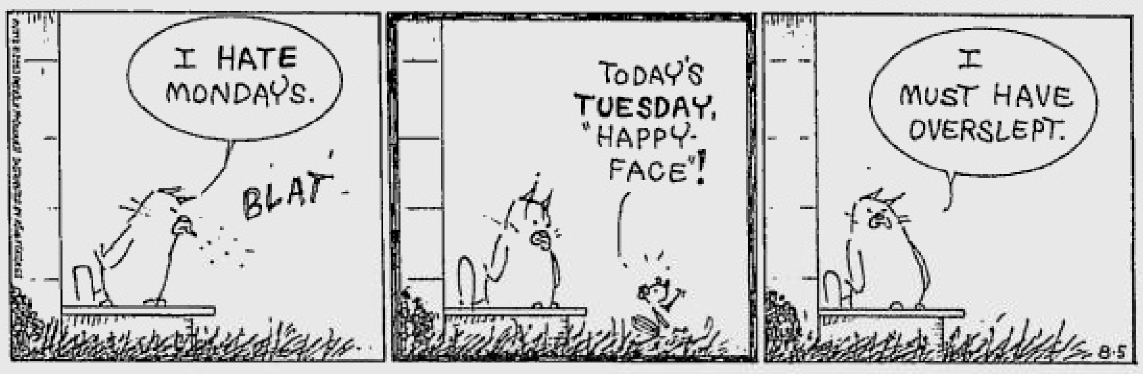
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI MO BA NAKIKITA ITONG GINAGAWA KO, ANAK?
INE-ENGGANYO KONG MAGING BISYO MO ANG PAGBABASA.
PAG MAHILIG KA NANG MAGBASA E HINDI NA KAMI MAG-AALALA NG INAY MO SA KINABUKASAN MO.
SIGURADONG MAGTATAGUMPAY KA, ANAK!
KAYA NGA AKO KUMUKUPIT NG MGA MAGAZINE SA OPISINA E.
PARA LANG MAY MABASA KA PALAGI...
OKEY PO ITONG TIME MAGAZINE N'YO A...
NAG-RESIGN PALA SI NIXON?...
NYACK!
PMJR0803

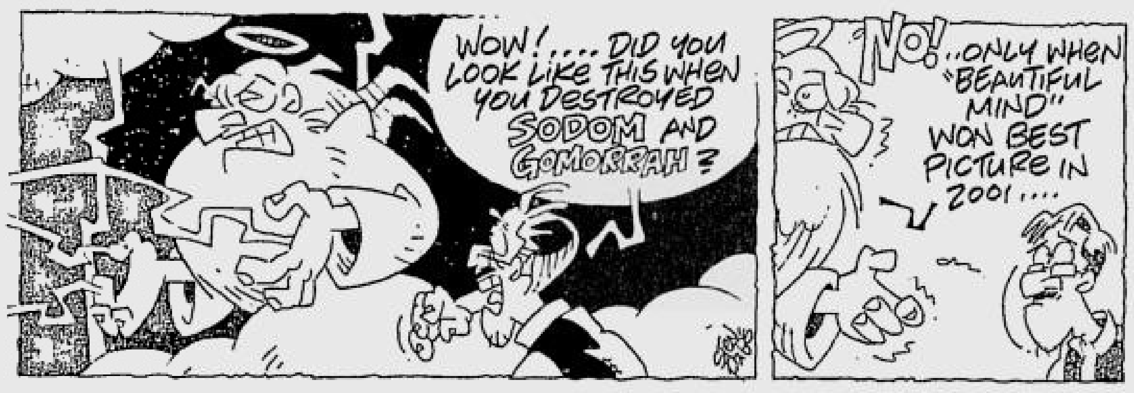
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I HATE MONDAYS.
BLAT
TODAY'S TUESDAY, "HAPPY-FACE"!
I MUST HAVE OVERSLEPT.
8-5

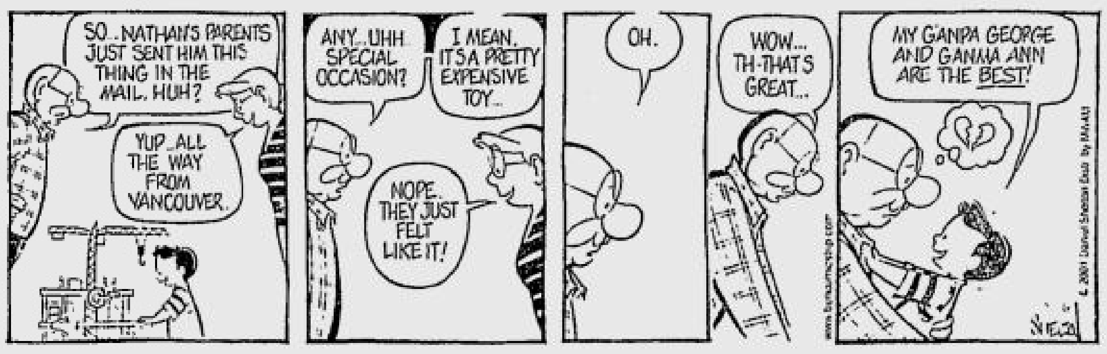
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WOW!.... DID YOU LOOK LIKE THIS WHEN YOU DESTROYED SODOM AND GOMORRAH?
NO! ..ONLY WHEN "BEAUTIFUL MIND" WON BEST PICTURE IN 2001....

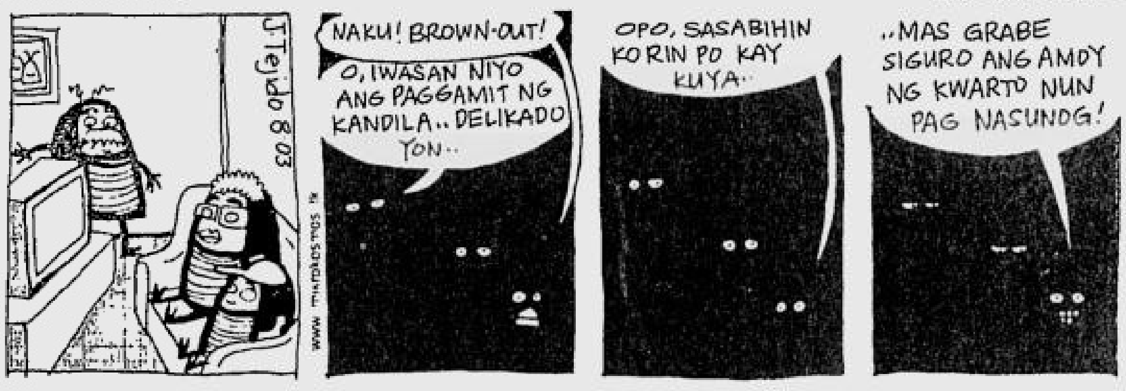
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO.. NATHAN'S PARENTS JUST SENT HIM THIS THING IN THE MAIL, HUH?
YUP.. ALL THE WAY FROM VANCOUVER.
ANY.. UHH SPECIAL OCCASION?
I MEAN, IT'S A PRETTY EXPENSIVE TOY..
NOPE. THEY JUST FELT LIKE IT!
OH.
WOW... TH-THAT'S GREAT...
MY GANPA GEORGE AND GANMA ANN ARE THE BEST!

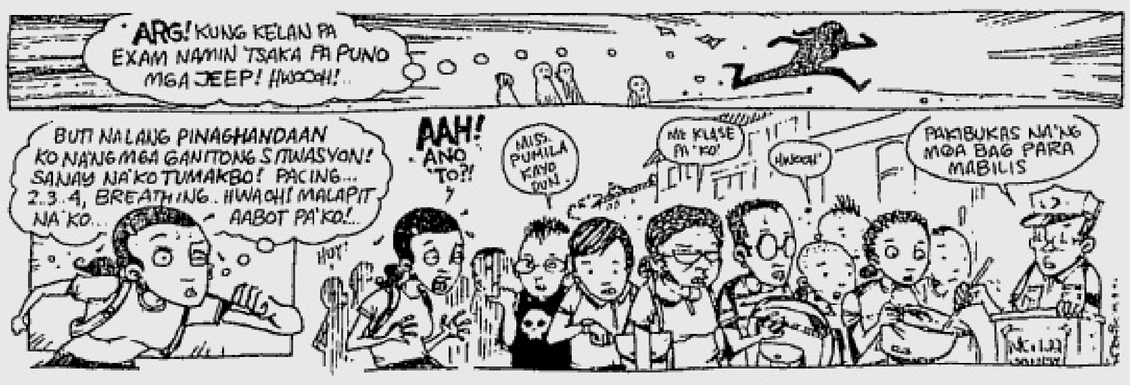
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J.Tejido 8.03
NAKU! BROWN-OUT!
O, IWASAN NIYO ANG PAGGAMIT NG KANDILA.. DELIKADO YON..
OPO, SASABIHIN KO RIN PO KAY KUYA..
..MAS GRABE SIGURO ANG AMOY NG KWARTO NUN PAG NASUNOG!

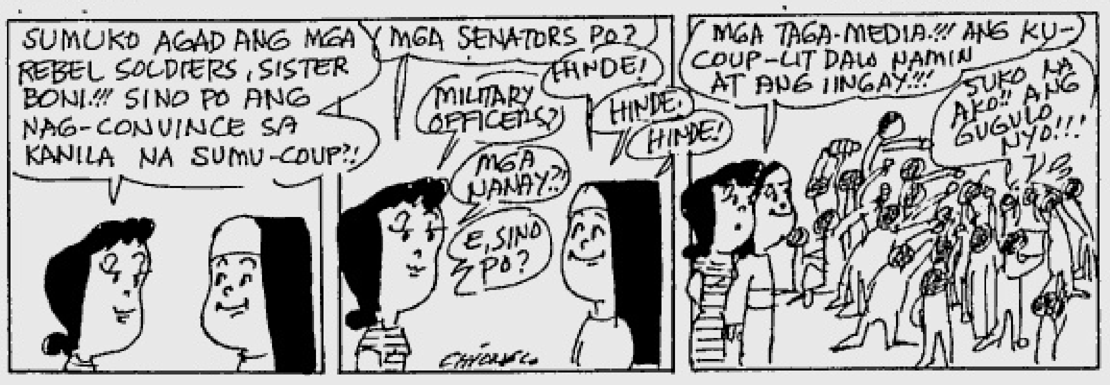
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ARG! KUNG KELAN PA EXAM NAMIN 'TSAKA PA PUNO MGA JEEP! HWOOH!..
BUTI NA LANG PINAGHANDAAN KO NA'NG MGA GANITONG SITWASYON! SANAY NA'KO TUMAKBO! PACING... 2..3..4, BREATHING.. HWAOH! MALAPIT NA'KO..
AABOT PA'KO!..
AAH! ANO 'TO?!
HOY!
MIS. PUMILA KAYO DUN.
MY KLASE PA 'KO!
HWOOH!
PAKIBUKAS NA'NG MGA BAG PARA MABILIS

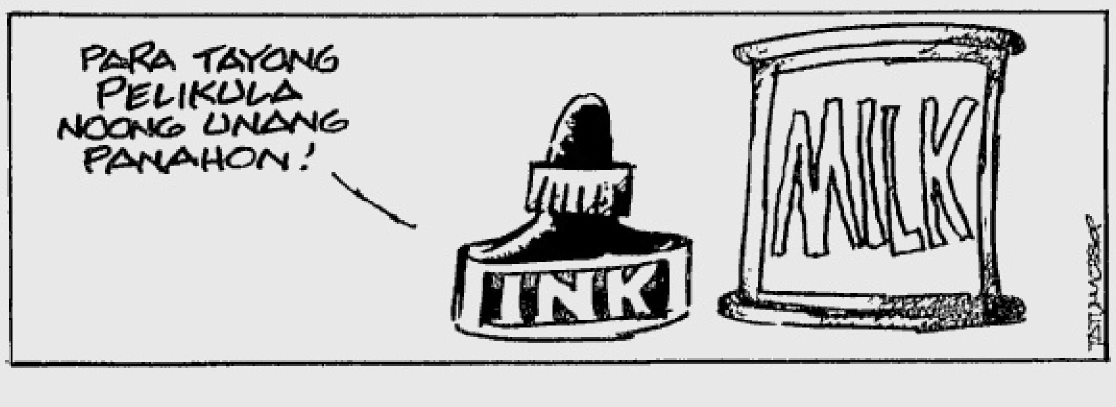
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SUMUKO AGAD ANG MGA REBEL SOLDIERS, SISTER BONI!!! SINO PO ANG NAG-CONVINCE SA KANILA NA SUMU-COUP?!
MGA SENATORS PO?
HINDE!
MILITARY OFFICERS?
HINDE.
MGA NANAY?!
HINDE!
E, SINO PO?
MGA TAGA-MEDIA!!! ANG KU-COUP-LIT DAW NAMIN AT ANG IINGAY!!!
SUKO NA AKO!! ANG GUGULO NYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PARA TAYONG PELIKULA NOONG UNANG PANAHON!
INK
MILK

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BULLETPROOF MONK	1 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings)	1 ArtFilm DOUBLE VISION (Exclusive) 12.40 2.45, 4.50, 6.55, 9.00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings) 12.00, 2.15, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00	THX 1 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings)
2 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings)	2 TOMB RAIDER 2	2 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings)	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BAD BOYS II 12.45, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45	2 BAD BOYS II
3 TOMB RAIDER 2	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BAD BOYS II 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK Aug. 28 - 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TOMB RAIDER 2 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00, 11.30	3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 BAD BOYS II	4 DARK WATER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BULLETPROOF MONK 12.05, 2.20, 4.35, 6.50, 9.05, 11.20	4 BAD BOYS II
	5 DOWN WITH LOVE		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 BAD BOYS II 2.25, 5.35, [illegible]	5 TOMB RAIDER 2
	6 BAD BOYS II			
	7 BULLETPROOF MONK			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TOMB RAIDER-2
5 BAD BOYS-2
6 BAD BOYS-2
7 BULLET PROOF MONK
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 DARK WATER
10 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RAIDERS-2

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TOMB RAIDER-2
5 WILD BUTTERFLY

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 BAD BOYS-2

star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SEX & ZEN-2

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2603

BAD BOYS-2

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TERMINATOR - 3
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 XEREX
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 BAD BOYS-2
4 RESERVE
5 TOMB RAIDER-2
6 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
7 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
8 BAD BOYS-2
9 BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BAD BOYS-2
5 BULLET PROOF MONK
6 BAD BOYS-2
7 TERMINATOR-3
8 MASAMANG UGAT
9 WILD BUTTERFLY

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 TSA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 BAD BOYS-2
5 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
5 BAD BOYS-2

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BAD BOYS-2

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Lords SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Jennel RESERVE

Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 RESERVE
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 TOMB RADER-2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 BAD BOYS-2
5 BAD BOYS-2
6 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 TOMB RADER-2

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0920

1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RADER-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 TOMB RADER-2
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 MSAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR-3
4 TOMB RADER-2

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 MASAMANG UGAT

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SUGAT
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 WILD BUTTERFLY
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 WILD BUTTERFLY

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BAD BOYS-2

Cine Nepo Mall

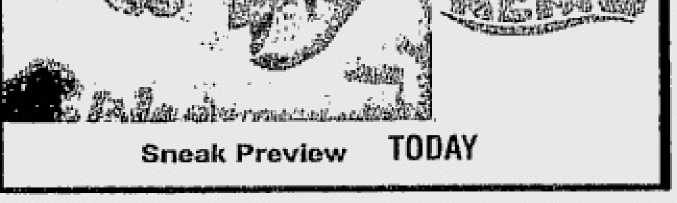
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice



Sneak Preview TODAY

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 BULLETPROOF MONK
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 BULLETPROOF MONK
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 FINDING NEMO
10 WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 BULLETPROOF MONK
7 FINDING NEMO
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
11 MASAMANG UGAT
12 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED
11 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
12 DARK WATER

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 DARK WATER
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 BULLETPROOF MONK
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED
12 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 DARK WATER
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 FINDING NEMO
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1 DARK WATER
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER 2
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DEATH WATCH
6 FINDING NEMO
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 IMPOSTOR
2 RESERVED
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 DOWN WITH LOVE
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 JACKASS THE MOVIE
7 RESERVED
8 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 FINDING NEMO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 JACKASS THE MOVIE
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 MUNTING TINIG
3 DEATH WATCH
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-0976

1 FINDING NEMO
11:15 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 BAD BOYS 2
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/2:15/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:35 END

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Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMAS

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Galleria

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633-7641 loc. 279

THX /All Digital

1 BAD BOYS 2 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45
4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 9:50
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS 10.50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8 TERMINATOR 3 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
9 DARK WATER 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
10 DOWN WITH LOVE 1.00, 3:10, 5.20, 7:30, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE:P90THX cinema P75 1 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm / EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

[illegible]

1 BAD BOYS 2 - 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
2 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30
4 TOMB RAIDER - 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50
5 DARK WATER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 BULLET PROOF MONK - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 BAD BOYS 2 - 11:50, 2:50, 5:50, 8:55

Metro East

[illegible]

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER 2
7 DOWN WITH LOVE
8 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Novaliches

[illegible]

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 TOMB RAIDER 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
8 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Malabon

288-095[illegible]

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2

Star Mills

[illegible]

1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER 2

Imus

[illegible]

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TOMB RAIDER 2
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED
6 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Sta. Rosa

(049)837-090[illegible]

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Bacolod

441-04[illegible]

1 28 DAYS LATER
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 JACKASS THE MOVIE
6 WILD BUTTERFLY

Iloilo

336-8177-7

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 JACKASS THE MOVIE
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 IMPOSTOR
6 TOMB RAIDER 2

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Paolo a true Prince Charming

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAD the time of my life hosting the "Kolours Shampoo In Hair Color" mall show at SM City North Edsa with **Paolo Montalban.**

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Paolo's not stuck-up at all, considering that he has penetrated Hollywood already and he landed on the prestigious list of People magazine's 50 most beautiful people in the world a few years back. Some local actors who have a bad case of superstar complex can learn a thing or two from him.

When Paolo was introduced to me, I told him I had a bad cold. He immediately searched in his bag and handed me some medicine. He restored my wavering belief that there are still some honest-to-goodness gentlemen left. I could tell that his being nice was no put-on. When you talk to him, he draws you in and really gives you his undivided attention. And unlike some Pinoys who grew up in the US, he has no qualms about speaking Tagalog.

Don't you just hate it when someone who stayed in the States for just a few months suddenly pretends not to know how to speak in the vernacular anymore?

As much as Paolo wants to stay in Manila longer, he has to fly back to LA because he has many commitments there. According to his *Tito* Teri, Paolo has been deluged with offers to do stage plays, movies, TV shows and commercials, but he can't grab them yet. Everything will depend on his schedule in Hollywood, where he has a manager whom he has to consult first before he can give his nod to any offers back here. He just came home to promote his self-titled album, which is selling briskly.

Paolo is in the cast of the movie "Great Raid." I asked him what it was like working with Hollywood big stars. With nary a trace of insecurity, he smiled, "They are all wonderful but it's no big deal to me. We are all just actors."

Paolo's confident that Pinoy talents can be at par with Hollywood's best.

I teased him, "So how many girlfriends do you have?" He shot back in jest, "Uhm . . . 26!"

I countered, "Why don't you make it 31 so you'll have one for every day of the month?"

Hosting the show with him was such a breeze! Super thanks to the gracious staff of Kolours Shampoo In (Color Care for Asian Hair) and Circe Special Events, **Michael Tameta, Giesel Santos, Nely Timbol** and **Soki Munar** for such a terrific time.

And to Paolo: Just like your role in "Cinderella," you are truly a Prince Charming.

MTV nominee

KUDOS to the only band I listen to, True Faith, for being nominated in the upcoming MTV Pilipinas Awards (Aug. 6 at the NBC Tent) for Best Video by a group for their catchy song "Deadma!" from their latest album, "Grace," which is on repeat mode in my CD player daily.

The video was directed by Team Manila. It also stars **Diana Zubiri.**

For me, True Faith is a born winner, with or without a trophy. Its music, which has spanned 10 years, is a prize in itself.

Catch them in their August gigs: Aug. 6, NBC Tent and Bagaberde; Aug. 7, University of Baguio; Aug. 9, Virgin Café; Aug. 13, Bagaberde; Aug. 15, The Village Cebu; Aug. 16, Ratsky's Cebu; Aug. 20, Bagaberde; Aug. 22, North Point; Aug. 23, Barracks Iloilo; Aug. 24, Mergrande Davao; Aug. 27, Bagaberde; Aug. 29, Amneshox; Aug. 30, Streetlife.

Personal

CONGRATS to Andy Barce, who is so efficient as True Faith's road manager so he was promoted to band manager. *Kampai, kakampi!*

Guess list

GUESS who is this young and popular singer who lamented to her friends that despite all the popularity she has now, she feels empty inside. The trouble is her overprotective parents, who won't even allow her to watch a movie with her friends. Poor young thing! She's working too hard and her parents are keeping her from enjoying her youth. They guard her like a hawk and keep all her earnings. She still has to ask for an allowance from them whenever she wants to buy anything. Perhaps her parents just want to make sure that her earnings don't go to waste, but they should loosen up a bit. When you overdo protection, it already becomes restriction.

Guess who is this other singer who's relatively new in the scene but is quite hot now. She's fast becoming a headache to most bar owners and producers because she shows up for her gigs late. Her band starts off the show without her. And after just a few songs, she lets the audience do the singing, karaoke style. People pay to watch her perform but they end up seeing her act up.

Happy birthday, Mom

HAPPY, happy "ageless" birthday, Mommy dearest! Thank you for opening many doors for me. As I walk through them, I'm secure in the thought that when I look back, you never shut the door that leads me back to you.

Saranghannedal

For feedback e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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FINDING NEMO

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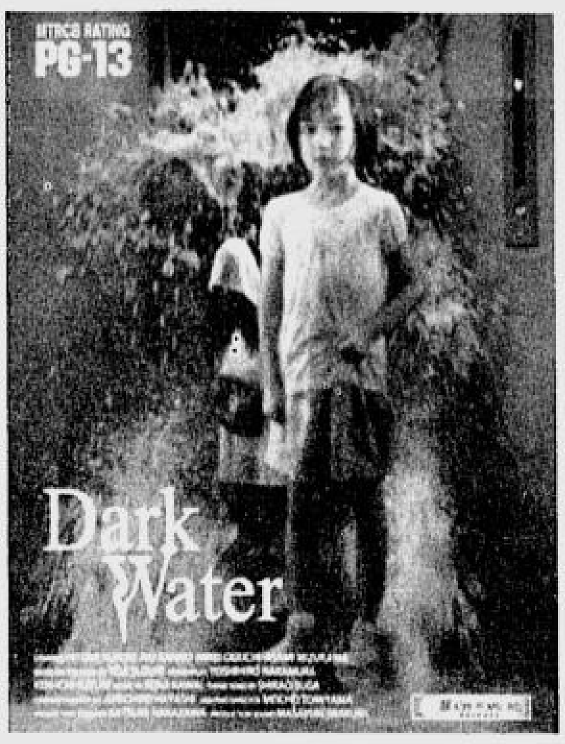

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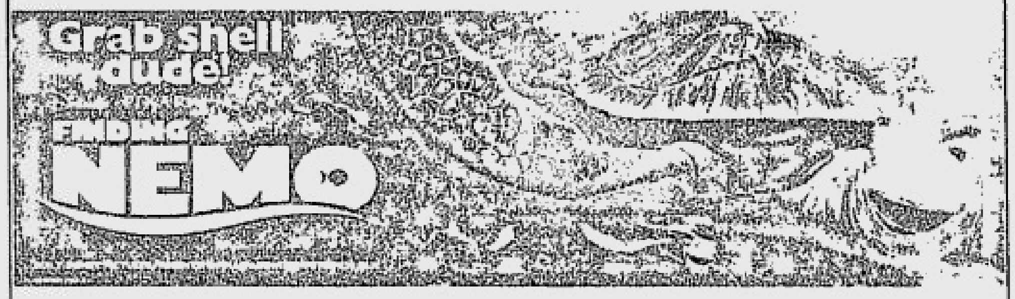
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August 4&5, 2003
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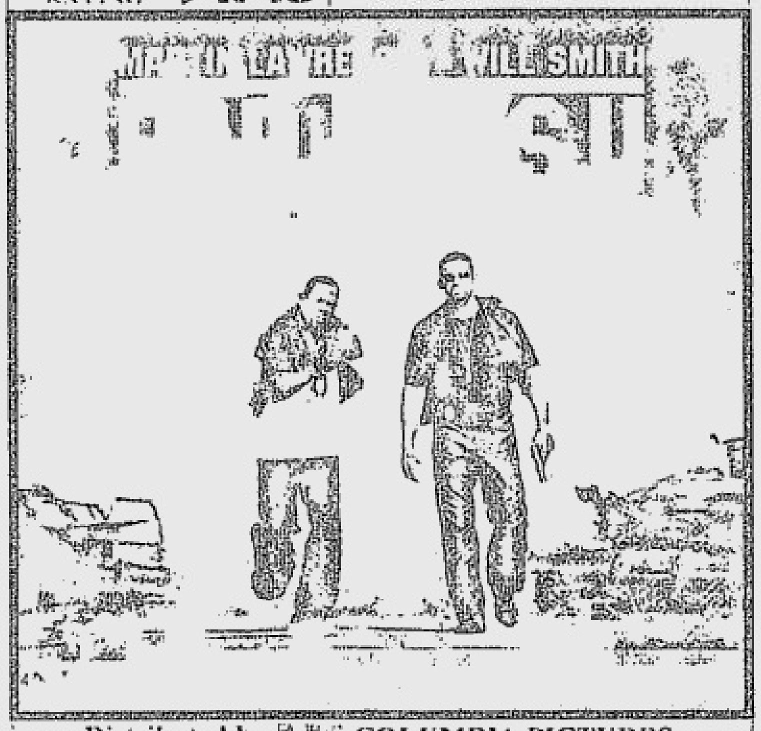

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– Tom Long, DETROIT NEWS
– David Germain, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
Buena Vista International

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Weaknesses Youthful, impulsive, naive, reckless
Why he joined the League: Retribution for the loss of an American comrade
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OPENS AUGUST 13
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Unique mini-series brings dinosaurs back to 'life'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"WALKING with Dinosaurs," a three-hour natural history mini-series co-produced by the Discovery channel and the BBC, is a unique TV treat because it strives to bring dinosaurs back to "life."

This mini-series does this by using advanced computer animation, state-of-the-art animatronics, and the latest scientific findings to recreate the world and the time of the living dinosaurs, many millions of years ago.

Viewers can see how dinosaurs moved, lived, hunted, fed, mated, raised their young, interacted with each other and died. All this happens within the context of a complete prehistoric ecosystem. Background locations were filmed around the world, whenever ancient plant species still exist.

Eight paleontologists worked as scientific advisers on the series, and more than 100 other scientists were consulted on their specific areas of specialization—dinosaur footprints, movement, dung—etc.!

The Discovery channel will broadcast "Walking with Dinosaurs" from Aug. 18 to Aug. 20 on "Ultimate Discovery." Following the mini-series, Discovery will take viewers behind the scenes on Aug. 21 to witness "The Making of 'Walking with Dinosaurs.'" And there will be a special encore on "Valley of the T-Rex" at 10 p.m. on Aug. 22.

Dinosaurs have become especially interesting to viewers, especially young people, as a result of the "Jurassic Park" film series.

"Walking with Dinosaurs" benefits from that heightened interest, but goes beyond it by stressing scientific fact over entertaining conjecture. Let's watch the mini-series to get to know more about the former masters of planet Earth.

Among other things, the Discovery-BBC production informs viewers that the heaviest dinosaur was the Brachiosaurus: It weighed 70 tons! A mature African elephant weighs five tons, meaning a weight ratio of 14 elephants to one Brachiosaurus.

The largest flying animals were Orithnocheirus and Quetzalcoatlus. The size of a small plane, they had a wingspan of 12 meters. Amazingly, they weighed only about 100 kilograms.

Tyrannosaurus may have had massive teeth, but it couldn't chew and had to swallow its food whole.

A newly-unearthed plant-eating sauropod, Jobaria Tiguidensis, had a Cheshire Cat-like smile—and 600 teeth!

A sauropod's stomach could hold up to half a ton of food. It had large stones inside called gastroliths, which helped to grind down and digest the food.

Dinosaurs were generally ground feeders that were especially good at eating ferns.

Stegosaurus had the smallest brain in proportion to its overall size. The creature weighed about seven tons and measured 12 m in height, but had a brain that was only the size of an orange!

A single Diplodocus produced one ton of dung per day. The evidence of coprolites (fossilized dung) suggests that there were prehistoric dung beetles around. They helped clear the dinosaur dung in the same way that dung beetles remove elephant waste.

Feedback

THE CONCLUSION of Ms **Pureza Ramiro Pacis'** notes on memorable musical films:

"Who can forget 'The King and I' with its timeless song and dance numbers like 'Getting to Know You,' 'Shall We Dance' and 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'? At the same time, the musical had the ill-fated lovers, Tuptim and Lun Tha, very pathetic in 'We Kiss in the Shadows.' And, as Lady Thiang sang 'Something Wonderful,' you felt like falling in love again.

"In 'My Fair Lady,' Henry Higgins (**Rex Harrison**) could not admit he was in love with Eliza Doolittle (**Audrey Hepburn**). The show's lyrics are lovely—'The Rain in Spain,' 'Just You Wait,' 'Enry 'Iggins.'

"'Oliver' is a musical masterpiece. Although the main plot is about the exploitation of minors, its subplot is about true love, the banner song about which is 'As Long as He Needs Me.'

"'Annie'—the musical about the irrepressible orphan who had a duet with President **Franklin Roosevelt** looking forward to 'Tomorrow.'

"'Mary Poppins' is supercalifragelisticexpialidocious! A recent find of mine is 'Gepetto,' focusing not on Pinnochio but on the sculptor who carved him.

"I wish there could be a venue to preserve and screen those films! They no longer make musical movies like those, do they?"

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 6	FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
Ali 7	TOMB RAIDER 2

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 07	UAAP GAMES
AUG 09	UAAP GAMES
AUG 14	UAAP GAMES
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES
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TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00	BULLETPROOF MONK R13 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	BAD BOYS 2 R13 1:10,4:10, 7:10,10:10
BAD BOYS 2 R13 12:10,3:10, 6:10,9:10	BAD BOYS 2 R13 2:10,5:10, 8:10	FINDING NEMO GP 12:40,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAD BOYS 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAD BOYS 2
B	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-7	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	TOMB RAIDER 2
LORES	
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA 4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	BAD BOYS 2 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 R13
CINEMA 2	Lara Croft TOMB RAIDER 2 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 PG13

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MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG 8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30 2003	GARY V HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
AUG 19 2003	MAYA L'EE IN CONCERT	8:30PM

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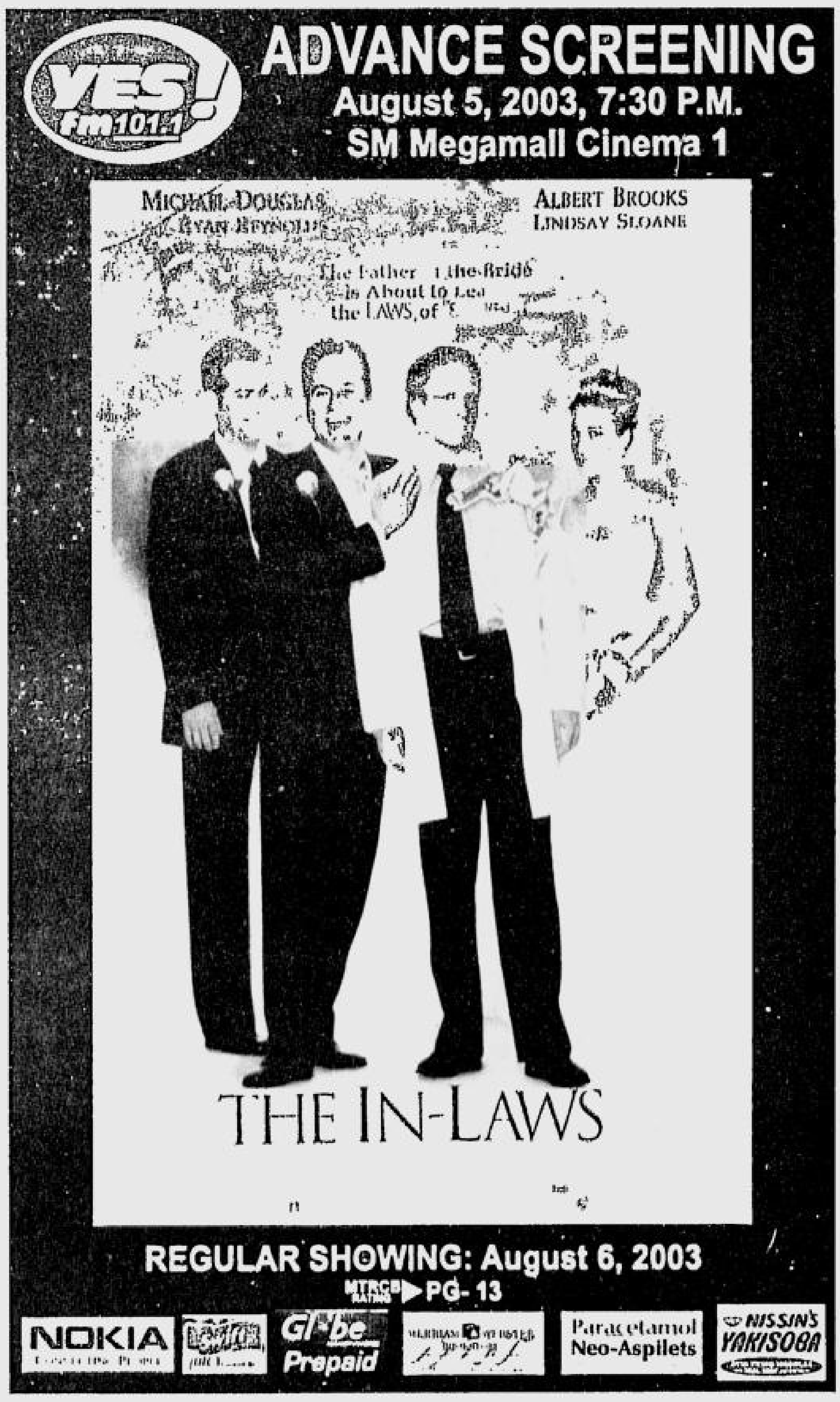
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ADVANCE SCREENING
August 5, 2003, 7:30 P.M.
SM Megamall Cinema 1
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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Ruffa's new baby gets $1M from grandma

Couple to raise Lorín Gabriella in Istanbul

By Marinel R. Cruz

LORÍN Gabriella Bektas, the first-born of actress and beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez and her Turkish businessman husband Yilmaz Bektas, became an instant millionaire when her paternal grandmother gifted her with $1 million.

"She said Ruffa could buy anything she wants for the baby," Ruffa's mother Annabelle Rama on Monday told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview from Los Angeles.

Ruffa gave birth, through normal delivery, at 7:30 a.m. last Sunday (10:30 p.m. Manila time), Aug. 3, to her first baby at the Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, according to Annabelle.

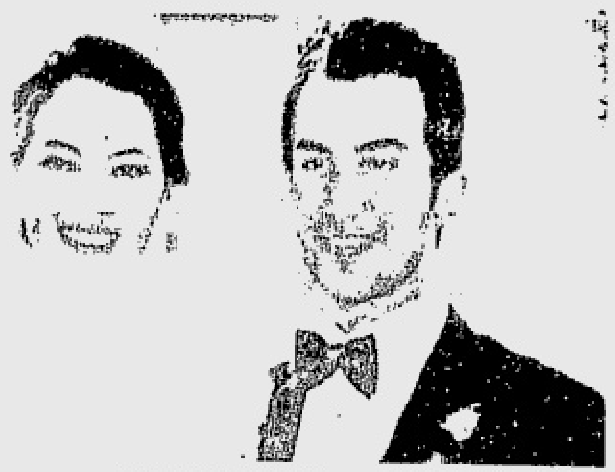
Also Sunday, Ruffa talked on the phone with her mother-in-law who was very excited, according to Annabelle. "We put her (Ruffa) on speaker phone," said Annabelle. "I didn't understand their conversation because they were speaking in Turkish. I didn't know Ruffa could speak their language."

Ruffa explained in a text message that the baby's name is from a Kurdish lullaby of the same title.

Lorín Gabriella, who weighed 7.8 pounds and measured 18 inches long at birth, is sharing a hospital room with her mother, said Annabelle the grandmother.

Manila baptism

"Ruffa and Yilmaz wanted to check on how the baby's doing every five minutes so they took her out of the nursery," Annabelle said.



MR. AND MRS. Bektas, in their Manila wedding, took the baby's name from a Kurdish lullaby.

Ruffa had been expected to give birth on Aug. 8, with Dr. Christina Adberg as her gynecologist. She practiced Kundalini yoga as taught by Gurmuck, the guru of supermodel-actress Cindy Crawford, at the Golden Bridge Yoga, until last June.

Annabelle, her husband Eddie Gutierrez and their eldest son Rocky have been with Ruffa since she first experienced labor pains in her Rodeo Drive house last Saturday night. Raymond is expected to arrive in LA on Thursday, while his twin Richard and youngest brother Elvis will be coming on Aug. 10.

"Yilmaz said they would take the baby to Istanbul as soon as the doctors allow," Annabelle said. "But I made him promise that she would be baptized in Manila in December."

She said that over 60 of her friends, as well as Ruffa's godparents and friends, have visited the new mother and daughter.

"Ruffa is now complaining of headache after having to entertain so many well-wishers," Annabelle shared, "but she's very happy. She proudly shows her baby to them."

She said Lorín got her chinky eyes and thick hair from Ruffa, and her smile and the shape of her face from Yilmaz.

Annabelle said the couple, who were married in a grand ceremony at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio's Global City, plan to raise Lorín Gabriella in Istanbul.

They initially wanted to have four babies, "now they only want two, because pregnancy had been very difficult for Ruffa," Annabelle said.

Ruffa's friends hosted two baby showers for her in California.

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Beyoncé feat. Missy Elliot	Signs	SIGNS
Beyoncé	Dangerously In Love 2	DANGEROUSLY
Beyoncé	Bonnie & Clyde 03	BONNIE&CLYDE
Beyoncé feat. Big Boi & SleepyBrown	Hip Hop Star	HIPHOPSTAR
Beyoncé feat. Jay-Z	That's How You Like It	HOWULYKIT
Destiny's Child	Independent Women Part 1	INDEPENDENT
Destiny's Child	Independent Women Part 2	INDEPENDENT1
Destiny's Child	Jumpin Jumpin Remix	JUMPINREMIX
Destiny's Child	Bills Bills Bills	BILLS
Destiny's Child	Emotion	EMOTION
Destiny's Child	Say My Name	SAYMYNAME
Destiny's Child	Survivor	SURVIVOR
Destiny's Child	Bootylicious	BOOTYLICIOUS
Ashanti	Rock With Ya	ROCKWITHYA
Busta Rhymes feat. Mariah carey	I Know What You Want	WHATUWANT
Blu Cantrell feat. Sean Paul	Breath Remix	BREATHREMIX
50Cent	21 Questions	21QUESTIONS
Sean Paul	Get Busy	GETBUSY
R.Kelly	Ignition Remix	IGNITION

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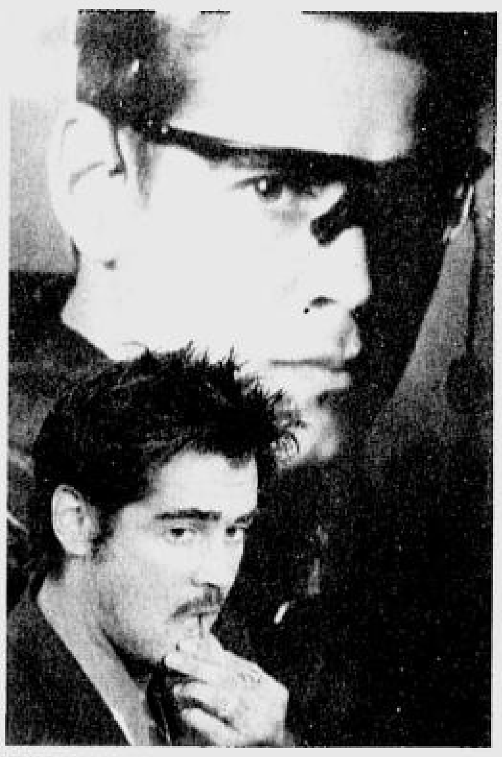

FARRELL'S WAYS
Irish actor Colin Farrell, star of "Phone Booth" who's known for his drinking, hot-headed ways, walks past a poster of a clean-shaven version of himself in the new movie "S.W.A.T" during its premiere in Los Angeles. AP

Brockovich has new cause

LOS ANGELES—Erin Brockovich, inspiration for the 2001 blockbuster starring Julia Roberts, filed suit last week against a California high school, charging that exploitation of an oil well on campus had caused cancer among students and teachers.

Brockovich announced the case together with lawyer Ed Masry, her boss in 1996 when the pair won $333 million from Pacific Gas and Electric for residents of Hinkley, California, whose water had been polluted by the firm. That case launched both to fame and inspired the Steven Soderbergh film "Erin Brockovich," which won Roberts an Oscar for her portrayal of the determined activist.

Masry and Brockovich announced in April that tests on the air at the secondary school in posh Beverly Hills showed abnormal levels of toxins. Now they are saying that school authorities allowed the oil well to be exploited for years, causing students and teachers to fall ill. *AFP*

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AUVs fail 10-seater test, lose tax perk

By Clarissa S. Batino

STARTING Sept. 9, only the Chevrolet Suburban will be exempt from paying an excise tax as 18 other models, including top-sellers Toyota Revo, Mitsubishi Adventure, Isuzu Crosswind and Honda CR-V failed the 10-seater criterion during a re-measurement concluded by the Bureau of Internal Revenue last week.

"Once the new revenue regulation takes effect, only the vehicle that passed the re-measurement will continue to have the excise tax exemption. All others who did not make it will have to start paying excise taxes, unless Congress passes the amendments to the motor vehicle taxation before Sept. 9," said Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. during yesterday's 99th anniversary of the BIR.

The excise tax break was a privilege given to two-wheel drive vehicles that could seat 10 or more people. Nine-seaters and four-wheel drives pay an excise tax ranging from 15 to 100 percent depending on engine displacement and fuel type.

The BIR ruling would jack up the prices of 10-seater models by at least 15 percent. A Revo that costs about P800,000 would have to pay excise taxes of P120,000 to P250,000 depending on its engine displacement.

Parayno said that based on the finance department's calculations, the lifting of the exemption should give the government additional revenues of about P2 billion assuming that demand for the vehicles would continue even after the higher taxes.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the BIR's decision underscored the need to pass the pending legislation on the rationalization of excise taxes on automobiles. The proposed legislation would shift the basis of taxation to price and would bring the tax rates lower.

"The re-measurement brings home the point of why there is a need to change the legislation to modify this bizarre situation wherein the manufacturers' brochure claim the vehicle is a 10-seater but in reality, it could not seat 10 people," Camacho said.

Parayno said the BIR used the definitions and measurements specified by the 1997 revenue regulation and departed from the looser provisions of the 1999 policy that used the manufacturers' brochure as the basis of seating capacity.

"We are responding to the requests of the car industry to remove the ambiguity and restore predictability in taxation to guide their business decisions as well as that of their customers," the BIR chief said.

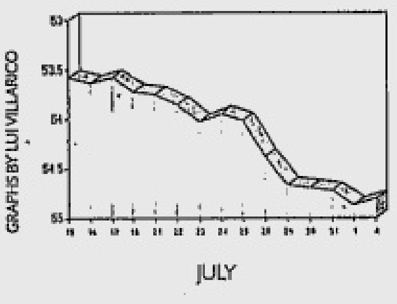
The BIR collected P55 billion in excise taxes last year but the bulk came from the oil sector and the tobacco and liquor industries.

Camacho said excise tax payments of the automotive industry had been declining through the years because of the lax application of the 10-seater exemption.

Parayno admitted that in terms of price and engine displacement, the two-wheel Sub-

AUVS/ B4

CURRENCIES



GRAFIS BY LUI VILLARICO

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 4, 2003

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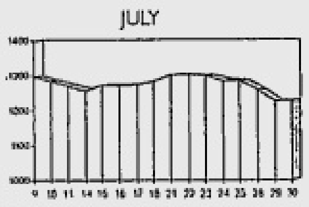
MARKET

Stocks slump 3% on security concerns

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices closed 3 percent lower yesterday, weighed down by security and political concerns amid continuing threats against President Macapagal-Arroyo's government, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index plunged 37.11 points to 1,198.19, breaching key support at 1,200 points. It is the index's weakest finish since June 12, when it settled at 1,191.06.

Volume was 707.96 million shares worth P405.73 million after 406.57 million shares worth 459.55 million on Friday.

Losers led gainers 84 to six, with 28 stocks unchanged.

"Overall sentiment remains negative and investors would rather cash out and stay out of the market amid these coup rumors and reports of military troop movements," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"Wall Street's decline also dragged us down with (Philippine Long Distance Telephone's American Depositary Receipts) sharply down last Friday," he said.

President Macapagal at the weekend confirmed there were "residual threats" against her government, a week after a failed military coup was quelled peacefully. Additional troops were subsequently ordered into the capital as reinforcements for possible attacks.

PLDT, whose New York-listed ADRs dropped 30 cents last Friday, was top traded and closed down P25 at P500. Bank of the Philippine Islands fell P1.50 to P43.50.

AFP

Exports jumped 4.2% in June to $3.06B

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE export earnings picked up by 4.2 percent to $3.06 billion in June from a year ago, ending a two-month slump, as the country boosted sales of alternative products to cope with the slowdown in the shipment of electronics.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that electronic products led by semiconductors still stood as the country's single biggest dollar-earning sector with a 63.1-percent share of total export revenues. However, the value of its contribution dropped by 5.2 percent to $1.93 billion in June primarily due to weak demand from the United States.

The United States, the country's biggest offshore market, bought 6.1 percent less of Philippine-made products in June compared to its purchases in the same month last year but the adverse impact on local earnings was mitigated by higher demand from other major markets like Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and other Asian countries.

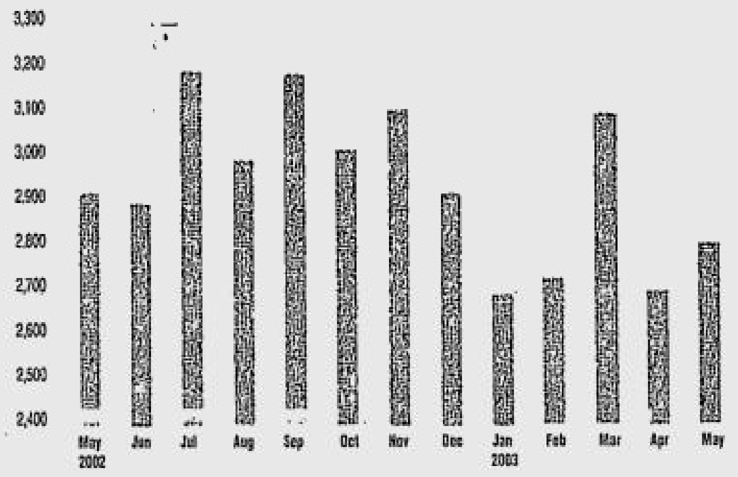
About 23 percent of the country's total export earnings for the month was from the United States while Japan, Hong Kong and the Netherlands accounted for 15.2 percent, 8.8 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively.

Despite the slowdown in the

EXPORTS/ B4

TOTAL EXPORTS

May 2002 to May 2003, in million US$



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RP to sign $1-B currency swap deal with China

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES will forge within the year a $1-billion currency swap agreement with China, which will provide the country a stand-by dollar support in the form of soft loans during extreme cases of foreign exchange volatility.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the arrangement was already in the final stages of documentation.

This will be the third bilateral arrangement to be signed by the government. The first currency swap was with Japan worth $3 billion and signed in July 2001. A similar deal was forged with South Korea last year.

The agreement can serve as a buffer that will help the government quell any speculative attack on the peso. The peso yesterday closed at 54.80 to $1, up from 54.87 on Friday. Traders, however, said the pressure on the currency would not ease until Malacañang has lifted the state of rebellion, which has been making investors jittery.

Camacho said the worst should be over for the peso and the economy as the jitters caused by the July 27 mutiny have started to die down.

In the meantime, Camacho said finance ministers of Southeast Asia as well as China, Japan and South Korea will map out procedures for an Asian bond market during talks here this week.

"The difficulty is that it is so wide in scope, we have to hold talks about the listing procedures, settlements and tax regimes," he told reporters ahead of the meeting Wednesday of finance ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Camacho will chair the meeting that will follow talks among the 10 Asean ministers and their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea to "operationalize" the regional bond market.

It was decided at earlier meetings that the 13 countries promote cross-border issuance of bonds and investment as part of an 'Asian Bond Market Initiative.'

"There has to be certain agreements and common guidelines on credit investments," Camacho said, adding that the project was viable as the region had among the world's biggest reserves.

Unlike the United States and Europe, Asia has yet to fully develop a bond market that will allow economies in the region to raise money from Asian investors.

Camacho said he had asked a global investment bank to present before the Asean finance ministers the benefits of involving the private sector in such an initiative.

During the event, the finance ministers were also expected to sign an agreement on the harmonization of customs procedures to facilitate trade among Asean economies.

The creation of an Asian bond market will be a follow up to the establishment of a $1-billion Asian bond fund', a pool of the reserves of economies in the region.

Judging from the size of external reserves of Asian economies, Camacho said an Asian bond market has a huge potential to grow.

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4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	200,000	200,000
6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	180,000	150,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8.	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	350,000
10.	EASTRIDGE B		100,000
11.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	300,000	
12.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
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18.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
19.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	775,000	
20.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	650,000
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Prof. Grace S. Ugut, PhD is the Assistant Dean of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning (EXCELL) Center and concurrently the Program Director of the Executive MBA Program in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her research focus is on her fields of expertise: capital market development and derivative instruments. She is engaged in banking and finance namely treasury, risk management, corporate finance, and fixed income securities.

Prof. Ugut holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi (1991) and a Doctor of Philosophy in International Finance from the Vienna University of Economics (1995).

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Gov't urged to maintain current tariffs on vegetables

BAGUIO CITY—The governments of Benguet and Mt. Province on Monday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to retain the tariff cover for vegetables, after a La Trinidad town councilor reported a new pattern of "technical smuggling" that supposedly concealed the entry of huge vegetable supplies from China.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas and Mt. Province Vice Gov. Anthony Wooden said the government was now obliged to sustain the tariffs on salad vegetables until it could fully implement safety measures that were supposed to cushion Philippine agriculture from the impact of trade liberalization by 2004.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) prescribes member-countries to gradually remove imports tariffs. The Cabinet is reportedly divided on how to address the Gatt schedule.

La Trinidad Councilor John Kim reported to the Benguet provincial board last week that legitimate importers had obtained clearances from the Bureau of Plant Industry to import "samples for hotels, restaurants and supermarkets."

One import permit assigned by Blo Umpar Adiong, BPI director, to Asia Golden Sun Inc., a Mandaluyong City-based import firm, allowed the entry of 25,000 kilograms of fresh carrots from Fujian, China, as "samples" for hotels and supermarkets.

"This is an unusually large volume of vegetables, which would be transmitted to Manila as samples," a government source said.

Molintas, who led efforts in 2002 to raise the tariffs on imported vegetables, said that despite the Gatt deadline, both the United States and Japan continued to subsidize their agriculture industries by opening access to low-interest funds and equipment.

He said the financial component of the agricultural safety nets was never released. Last week, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon blamed former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. for dangling the safety nets to earn the approval of the 9th Congress for the ratification of the Gatt agreements. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Coup rumors may spoil export growth, says Roxas

By Michelle V. Remo

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday warned that the persistence of coup rumors despite the quick resolution of the mutiny last July 27 and the political bickering over who should be blamed for the crisis could spoil the export growth the country has recently posted.

Roxas called on both the government and the private sector to get their acts together in preventing further damage in the country's business image as this could result in the pull-out of orders by importing countries.

In June, exports rose 4.2 percent from year-ago level. For the first semester of the year, the sector recorded a 2.1-percent growth.

"Let us not squander the opportunity before us," Roxas said in a statement noting that "the mutiny was immediately quashed and that our export markets were showing signs of improvement."

Roxas also said, "Our strategy for the past 18 months has been focused marketing, promoting new product lines in growing markets and exploring new markets in the region. As a result, we are no longer as vulnerable to downswings in specific markets or product lines."

Gov't rejects all bids for T-bills

THE BUREAU of Treasury rejected all bids for 91-day, 182-day and 364-day T-bills at an auction yesterday after the market demanded what the government deemed to be excessively high premiums in the wake of a failed troop mutiny.

It was the first auction of T-bills, which the government uses to help finance its budget deficit, since the July 27 uprising by more than 300 elite soldiers in Manila's business district.

The 91-day T-bill fetched an average rate of 5.168 percent at the previous auction on July 21, with the 182-day at 6.355 percent and the 364-day at 6.742 percent.

Jitters about reports of unauthorized troop movements and the extent of the plot behind the ninth military uprising in 17 years have pounded the country's stocks, bonds and currency, although the peso stabilized yesterday.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho chastised the market for trying to take advantage of the situation by bidding high.

"There is fundamental liquidity, the fiscal position is strong and the economy is growing. There is no justification for the bids they had submitted. The government is doing all it can to stabilize the situation and the market should not profit from it," said the finance chief.

Traders said the market was simply pricing in the risks arising from the political uncertainties caused by rumors of another mutiny.

The benchmark 91-day bill rate could have gone up by 68.1 basis points to 5.849 percent, the 182-day by 50.3 basis points to 6.858 percent and the 364-day by 130.1 basis points to 8.043 percent had the auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury accepted the bids.

The bids could have raised the cost of the state's borrowings by as much as 1.3 percentage points.

"The rates were unreasonably high so we rejected the bids. There is no reason for the reason for the rates to go up and while the market says there are coup rumors, we do not allow rumors to dictate the rates," said Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola. *Clarissa Batino, with a report from Reuters*

Destiny Cable loses MTV Asia

By Abigail L. Ho

ANOTHER trip to the pressure cooker, perhaps?

Starting Aug. 1, music channel MTV Asia was no longer present in the program lineup of Destiny Cable Inc., although local counterpart MTV Philippines was still being aired there.

Since late last year, Destiny had lost quite a number of top-rating channels including five Star Group Ltd. channels ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies, National Geographic and action channel AXN.

Destiny president and chief executive David Lim admitted that the loss of these programs, particularly those under Star TV, resulted in some subscriber migration to competitors SkyCable Central CATV Inc., Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. and other cable operators.

"We're trying to beef up our data and telecom business to augment some of our losses because of migration when we lost the Star TV programs last year," he told reporters in an earlier interview.

He said the closest competitor Beyond Cable Holdings Inc., composed of SkyCable and Home Cable, could be "exerting some muscle" to pressure Destiny into giving in to a consolidation plan in the near future.

Lim said this was precisely the kind of pressure that could be exerted on Destiny as program providers like Star TV and AXN could get more audience reach through bigger cable operators like SkyCable and Home Cable.

But Destiny marketing head Richard Rodriguez clarified that MTV Asia did not pull out its program from the cable operator's lineup.

He said all cable operators still carrying MTV Asia were all under the same predicament.

MTV Asia distributor Cable Boss seconded Rodriguez's claim, saying that MTV Asia had pulled the channel out from all local cable firms as it was currently "encrypting" the channel.

Wood firms hit smuggling

By Michelle V. Remo

THE LOCAL wood industry has revived its complaint against alleged smuggling of cheap plywood from Malaysia, claiming that the unfair competition was hurting sales of locally-manufactured products.

An industry source disclosed in a letter to Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo that an average of 100 crates of "technically smuggled" plywood from Malaysia enter the country through the Zamboanga port in Mindanao every week.

He said no duties were paid for these crates of plywood because these were brought in through direct individual importation, meaning the crates of plywood were declared to be used for personal, not commercial, consumption.

Goods entering the country through informal importation are not imposed the same duties as those imported for commercial distribution.

The source said it was doubtful that the estimated 100 crates of plywood imported on a regular basis would be used for personal consumption.

He added that the distribution of the cheap plywood to the Visayas and Mindanao directly competed with locally-produced products.

"This problem is adversely affecting the local industry. If only they (importers) would compete on a level playing field, or pay the proper taxes, their price would be the same as ours," said the industry source, who requested anonymity.

He said prices of these "technically smuggled" 5 mm-thick plywood from Malaysia range from P205-P210 per piece, while industry prices range from between P230 and P240.

Aside from declaring the shipment as personal importation, the industry also complained about the other "modus operandi" employed by plywood importers to evade the payment of duties.

"This malpractice of importing plywood has been continuously going on. Not only does it hurt legitimate businesses, but proper and rightful duties and taxes are deprived the government," the source said.

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Mapfre ratings raised

STANDARD and Poor's (S&P) Ratings Services raised to "AA" from "AA-" its long-term counter party credit and insurer financial ratings on Mapfre Mutualidad de Seguros, the main operating entity of Spanish insurance group Sistema Mapre. At the same time, S&P raised to "AA-" from "A+" its ratings on the group's holding company, Corporacion Mapfre SA. The outlook on Mapfre Mutualidad and Corporacion Mapfre is stable.

ALI chair in retailers' meet

AYALA Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala will be the keynote speaker at the 12th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia Expo 2003 (12th NRCE) on Aug. 14-15, 2003 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The event is organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) (tel Nos. 687-4985 / 4180 / 4181 or email at pra@nwave.net).

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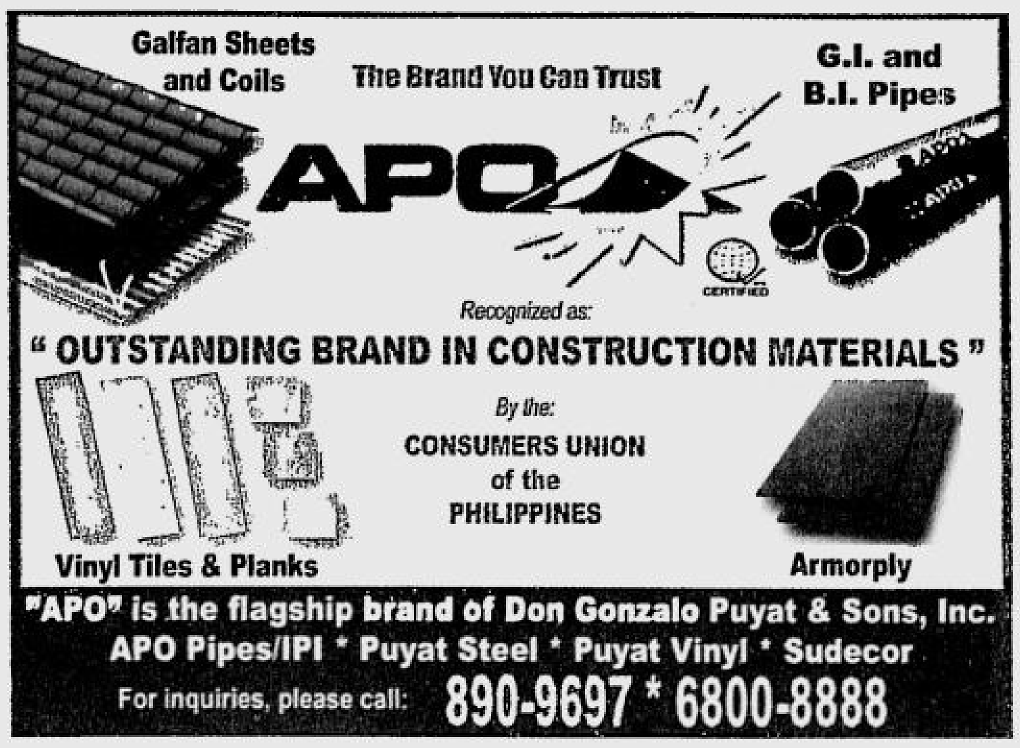

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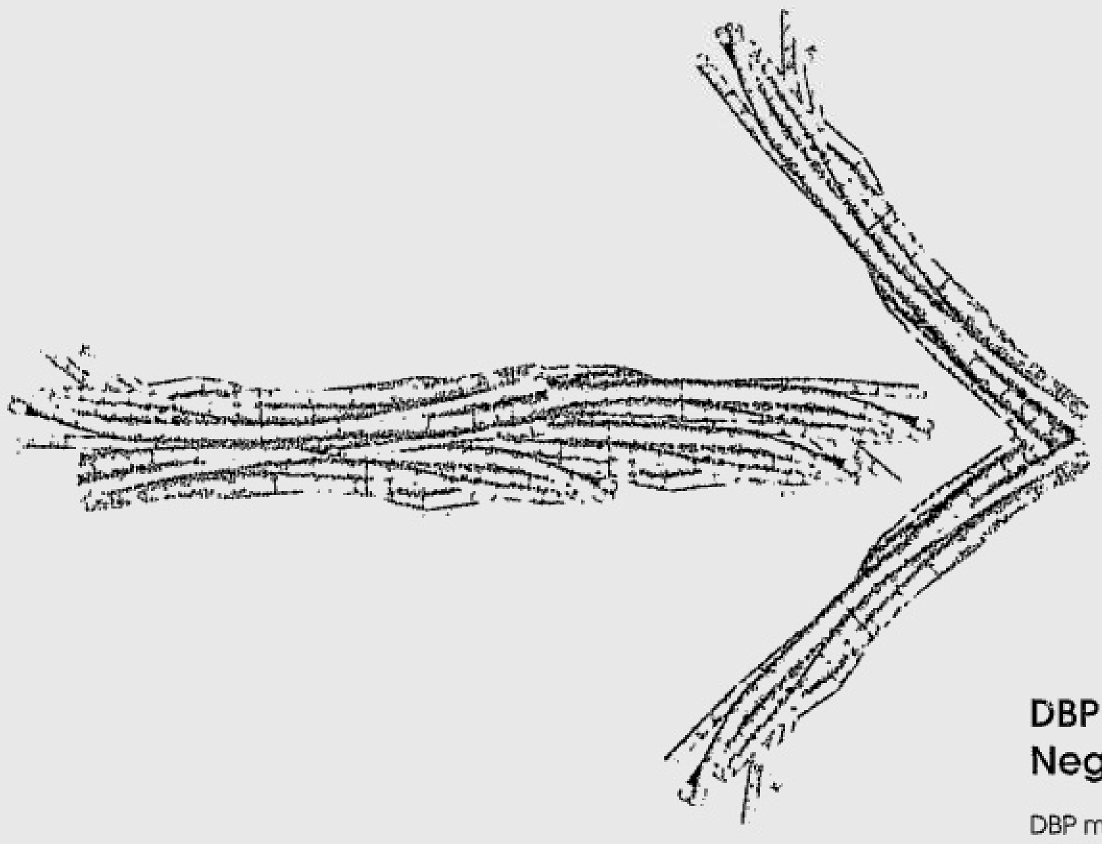

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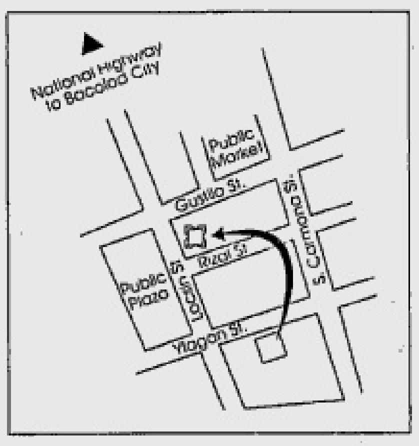

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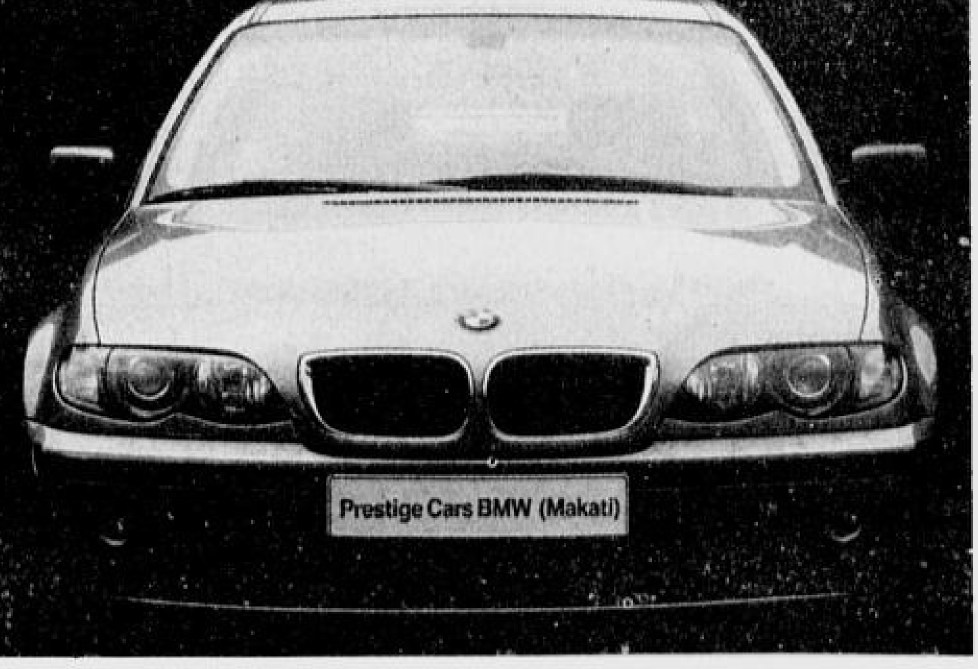

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Habeas corpus (So it is writ)

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AN American satellite happened to be passing overhead at the time of the mutiny and the following conversation was recorded between the President and General Corpus:

"Madam President. The soldiers are revolting."

"Yes, I know. Tell them to take a bath more often."

"No, I mean they have planned a putsch."

"What does that imply?"

"They are planning to putsch you out. They control a shopping complex."

"That makes the situation more complex."

"They have mined the building."

"They must be out of their mind."

"They have taken the Australian envoy hostage."

"That doesn't matter. He doesn't buy our bananas and pineapples anyway."

"But they have lots of other foreigners."

"Well, storm the building. You have plenty of troops."

"If we do, there will be corpuses everywhere. All the explosives are fitted with fuses."

"Well, make them an offer they can't refuse."

"Madam President, I will resign. I will be the white knight who sacrifices himself to save the Queen."

"That's a good idea. Good knight."

. President Bush was discussing the Middle East peace plan with Prime Minister Sharon. "Look, Sharon, I am happy that the ceasefire is holding but I think you must do more. Release extra prisoners and remove some of the roadblocks. I hope you will not take offense."

"On the contrary," Mr. President. "I will take a fence and put it around the West Bank."

Last week, I wrote that information technology companies were outsourcing work to India. On Friday, HEINZ announced it was out-saucing products to HP so that it could ketchup with its backlog. Otherwise, they will be in the soup.

* * *

THIS week, I want to write about the US market, but first I will update you on my degree-of-risk indicator. A few weeks ago, I called the top of the market to the day. This week, I called the bottom, a day before, together with 7 BUYS, one of which was TEL. It jumped P30 to P530 from P500, and four of the others also went up. On Thursday, I recommended one BUY, and it went up next day, even though the market went down 5 points. At present, there are only two second-liners worth watching and no BUYS so I anticipate a dull week, with moderate turnover and a downward bias. Stay out of the market.

Most technical analysts use trend-following indicators, and there is nothing wrong with that because you want to be trading with the trend (1st Commandment). However, the advantage of using a momentum indicator is that, while it follows the price more than 90 percent of the time, it will deviate as soon as a stock or index is about to change direction. If you can spot the divergence, it means that you can predict with fair accuracy, when the top of bottom will take place. This gives you an enormous advantage over trend-followers, who sell after the turn.

There is another point worth making, especially if you trade in large amounts, or if the stock is not very liquid. It is much easier to SELL in a rising market than to sell in a falling market. Stocks usually take weeks to form tops so you may be able to sell at rising prices before the bubble bursts. Bottoms tend to reverse far more quickly, so if you wait for the turn, you may not get any stock or, at best, you will have to pay a premium to do so. If you can BUY just before the bottom, you can accumulate stock more easily without paying up for it.

Of course, it is not a simple momentum indicator. It incorporates a stochastic, moving averages, volume, etc. I have only been working on it a few weeks but, so far, the results have been encouraging. I need to study it for at least another 3 months before I can be sure that it works as well as it appears to be doing at the moment.

Turning to the US market, which has been rising for the past 4 months, most companies have already reported their earnings and, generally speaking, they were a penny or so, better than expected. DISNEY increased its second quarter earnings from 16 cents to 19 cents, but EURODISNEY bought a Paris-site, which proved unprofitable, and it may not be able to pay the interest due next month. Snow White has laid off 3 of the 7 dwarfs, but I think that is a Goofy idea.

The US unemployment figure fell from 6.4 percent, a 9-year high, to 6.2 percent. Initially, this sent the DOW soaring but it went quickly into reverse when the Labor Department announced that employers had cut 44,000 jobs in July, bringing the losses to 486,000 this year. The manufacturing industry was hit the hardest with 77,000 jobs lost. Since the bubble burst, 2.5 million jobs have been eliminated, nearly 2 million in the manufacturing industry. With factories working at only 75-percent capacity, these workers are unlikely to get their jobs back.

China is taking advantage of its undervalued currency to manufacture on a massive scale and at prices that nobody can compete with. While the US has a monthly deficit of $41 billion, China has a surplus of $35 billion. Pressure is being applied to make China revalue its currency upwards, but nothing is likely to happen this year.

The GDP figure for the 2nd quarter was an unbelievable 2.4 percent, against a revised 1.4 percent for the first quarter. This was far above any analyst's expectation, yet the market went down. This number consists of two main factors, consumer spending, which normally comprises two-thirds, and federal spending, mainly on defense. Store sales indicated no major improvement in consumer spending, but defense spending soared 44 percent to its highest level since the Korean War in 1951. Now that the war with Iraq is over, apart from mopping up operations, this figure might decline next quarter.

In the short-term, spending should increase because the President's tax cuts give every family $400 in tax rebates or child credits. A survey suggested that 31 percent will be used to pay bills, 45 percent will be saved, and the rest spent. So the next two months should show a once-and-for-all improvement. But any reduction in the unemployment rate below 6 percent seems unlikely in the months ahead.

* * *

I ATTENDED the musical Jesus Christ Superstar in a military camp. Instead of singing "Hosanna, Hosanna," they were singing "Honasan, Honasan." *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Aboitiz firm nets ₱1.18B in 1st half

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. booked a net profit of P1.18 billion in the first six months of the year, up slightly by 2 percent from a year ago, as earnings were tempered by lower contribution from its hydro power-generating unit.

In a statement yesterday, AEV said profits for the second quarter alone, however, hit P792 million or 104 percent better than the first-quarter income.

The power group contributed P555 million or 27 percent lower than last year's first half, due to the reduced earnings from the hydro group, AEV said.

In June 2002, it said Luzon Hydro Corp. booked an income from the payment of its insurance claim of $9.3 million for business interruption at the 70-MW Bakun plant caused by typhoon Feria in July 2001.

"Excluding the business interruption insurance from its 2002 earnings, AEV's net income in (the first half of) 2003 grew by 25 percent to P1.18 billion from P940 million in the same period last year," AEV said.

Overall, AEV nevertheless benefited from the strong performance of its banking subsidiaries, particularly Union Bank of the Philippines which reported a 100-percent growth in net profits to P604 million in the first half from a year ago.

The transport group likewise contributed P244 million, an increase of 251 percent, primarily due to AEV's increased ownership in William, Gothong & Aboitiz, the country's biggest and most profitable shipping firm.

Pilmico Foods Corp. contributed P71 million, 52 percent lower than its contribution in the same period last year while AEV's other investments contributed P2.2 million, 15 percent lower than its contribution in the first six months of last year.

AEV's revenues of P8.7 billion from January to June 2003 increased by 20 percent over the same period last year.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) also rose by 43 percent to P2.8 billion while earnings per share increased by 5 percent to 25 centavos in the first half compared to a year ago.

As of June 30, AEV's cash balance remained at P2 billion even after paying a cash dividend of 10 centavos per common share or a total of P 498 million on March 17.

Benpres generates ₱164M from sale of call center unit

THE LOPEZES' Benpres Holdings Corp. has raised a total of P163.6 million from the sale of its 450-seater call center subsidiary Customer Contract Center Inc. (C3).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Benpres said it received P145 million as payment for its 100-percent stake in C3. On top of this, Benpres was likewise repaid P18.6 million in earlier advances to the subsidiary.

The buyer, Universal Vision Corp., also settled about P80 million of C3's debts as part of the deal.

Benpres also corrected its own disclosure last week which stated that the call center unit was sold to a unit controlled by the Hinduja conglomerate of India.

It said UVC was a company registered under the laws of the British Virgin Islands engaged in marketing and offshore call center services.

"UVC is not controlled by the Hinduja group of India," Benpres clarified.

Meanwhile, the P145 million raised by Benpres from the sale of its equity in C3 stood at a 45-percent premium over the unit's book value of about P100 million. The call center unit was sold because it was outside of the business that Benpres would like to focus on: media (ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.) and power (First Philippine Holdings Corp.).

C3 was established in June 2001 initially handling the customer call services of other Lopez-controlled firms Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Manila Electric Co., SkyCable and an international banking services company. Five months after, it teamed up with US-based Source One Communications Inc., thus securing large foreign clients and catapulting itself into the global playing field.

Parent firm Benpres, for its part, has put non-core assets on the block as part of measures to address $554.3 million in debts. Earlier this year, Benpres secured a mandate from shareholders to fast-track its debt restructuring, including the possibility of yielding to court receivership if needed to protect itself from hostile creditors. *Doris C. Dumlao*

AUVs fail 10-seater test . . .

From page B1

urban was considered a luxury vehicle but using the measurement standards, it passed the test compared to other vehicles that were being marketed for middle-class buyers.

"We took into account not only seat dimensions but we set a definite measurement as to where the seat should be reckoned from. We also took into account such obstructions as built-in armrests, overhead airconditioning ducts, protruding amplifier box or wheel house. We gave a provision on feet space, leg room, and head room," the BIR chief explained.

Parayno noted that the 19 models currently availing themselves of excise taxes were remeasured in response to a congressional inquiry regarding alleged revenue losses from the tax breaks given to Honda CR-V.

The BIR [illegible] said that foregone revenues on exemptions given to Honda CR-V were estimated at about P250 million a year.

The new BIR regulation would be applied to existing inventory or units already in the Philippines, whether in the Bureau of Customs, assembly plants, warehouses or showrooms as of Sept. 8. The list of inventory on this date should be submitted to the BIR not later than Sept. 13.

"All importers and/or assemblers shall submit a duly notarized list of inventory on-hand of completely assembled automobiles, including completely knocked-down and semi-knocked down units that are located within the assembly plant or warehouses or customs' premises as of September 8 indicating therein the engine, body and chassis numbers," said the revenue regulation.

Assemblers and importers must exhaust their inventory before Sept. [illegible]

Exports . . .

From page B1

sales of electronics, the Philippines managed to increase the month's export revenues from shipments of apparel and clothing accessories (up by 9.6 percent to $237.66 million), petroleum products (up by 241.2 percent to $59.61 million), products manufactured from materials imported on consignments (up by 25.9 percent to $47.2 million), and ignition-wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships (up by 15.5 percent to $41.78 million).

Manufactured goods accounted for 87.1 percent of the total receipts, with sales rising by 0.8 percent to $2.67 billion from a year ago while income from agro-based products pumped in a meager 4.8-percent share or $146.87 million, although this was up by 17.6 percent from last year.

The rebound in June exports did not come as a surprise as imports had likewise resumed a positive growth in May after posting the first slowdown seen in 14 months in April. As bulk of the country's exports are heavily dependent on foreign inputs, the import bill is a key indicator of subsequent export performance.

In an interview yesterday, ATR Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo said she expected exports to make a more significant contribution to the domestic economy in the fourth quarter of the year, when the US economic recovery would have generated more steam.

Lorenzo also said the failed mutiny by junior military officers—which was still causing a shakeout in the financial markets—should not weigh down on the improving export outlook for the rest of the year.

"The immediate impact of the mutiny is on investments and consumption, not too much on exports because these are contracts and drawdowns that need to be fulfilled," Lorenzo said.

She said the weaker peso-dollar exchange rate triggered by the mutiny should even benefit exports over the short-term as it would make the pricing of locally made products more competitive in the global markets.

"It's the long-term impact that we have to worry about because what fuels exports are investments also. So if the environment doesn't improve, it will also affect exports," Lorenzo said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, Aug. 4, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	17.75	17.75	341,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	42.5	43.5	1,211,800
Citystate Savings Bank	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	32	33	114,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	28.5	29	206,500
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.25	24.25	63,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	10,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	22.75	22.75	173,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	105,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1580	1580	1580	3,400
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.26	1.26	217,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1140	1140	1140	1140	1,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	19	19	36,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.62	.62	3,120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	650	650	9,290
Ipeople Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.05	.05	9,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.044	0.048	0.041	0.042	154,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.48	.48	5,130,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	505	492.5	500	154,050
Vivant Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	.013	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.5	11.5	10.25	10.5	1,099,600
Manila Electric Co. B	17	17.25	16.5	16.5	1,578,600
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	1.94	1.96	5,073,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	2 1.6	2 1.6	2 1.62	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.9	3.9	3.93	350,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	809,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	297,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	.29	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	.37	360,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.55	3.55	206,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	245,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	210,500
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	250,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	.26	390,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	51.5	52	34,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61.5	61.5	370,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.2	5.2	5.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	.35	100,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.6	4.45	4.5	3,956,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	.16	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	600,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc	0.041	0.041	0.034	.034	4,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	.74	40,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	.07	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.56	.58	54,230,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	.19	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.07	.07	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.26	.28	6,200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.042	0.042	0.042	.042	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15	15	14	14	858,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	.19	40,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	.1	3,990,000
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.32	1.34	593,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	598,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	.5	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.7	.71	4,490,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	.32	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.235	.24	9,370,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	.33	5,350,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.165	.165	720,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.11	115	4,850,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.29	.29	440,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.33	.37	1,220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	90,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	39,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.065	.0725	1,100,000
SPI Technologies Inc	16.25	16.25	16	16	132,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	.52	4,260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.3	.3	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	.44	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.36	0.36	0.35	.35	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	19.5	19.5	19	19.5	47,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.0018	.0018	12,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	9,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6	6.1	4,074,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	14,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	.31	160,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	.2	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.175	.175	3,170,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	.15	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.21	.22	6,390,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	.5	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1	0.93	.93	15,597,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	.55	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.16	.165	3,320,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	.22	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	3,680,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0036	10,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	.0034	24,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	.0032	225,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	.013	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	55,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	.0032	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	.01	24,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	90,000

CURRENCIES

August 4, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.887233	1.000000	54.888000
Japan	Yen	0.007387	0.008326	0.457000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.428622	1.610200	88.380700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113764	0.128223	7.037900
Switzerland	Franc	0.649988	0.732601	40.211000
Canada	Dollar	0.634327	0.714950	39.242200
Singapore	Dollar	0.504196	0.568279	31.191700
Australia	Dollar	0.579815	0.653509	35.869800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.353465	2.652590	145.595400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.236589	0.266660	14.636400
Brunei	Dollar	0.502767	0.566669	31.103300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021129	0.023815	1.307200
UAE	Dirham	0.241575	0.272279	14.944800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.127100	61.864300
Argentina	Peso	0.302294	0.340716	18.701200
Brazil	REAL	0.296139	0.333778	18.320400

DISCLOSURES

SPI Technologies Inc. said a total of 101,166 common shares have been availed of and fully paid by the optionees under the stock option plan for employees. The listing of said shares is set for August 5. This brings the number of common shares under the said option to a total of 1,285,132.

* * *

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. confirmed the reported revenue target of approximately P8 billion this year.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. clarified that Universal Vision Corp. is not controlled by the Hinduja Group of India. It earlier informed the exchange of the sale of its stake in Customer Contact Center Inc. to Universal Vision. Benpres received P145 million for its equity and C3 repaid Benpres P18.6 million of Benpres advances.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 33,000 ILI shares at P1.90 per share on Aug. 1 under its share buyback program.

* * *

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. reset its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 12. It will be held at the Metropolitan Club, Makati City at 3 p.m. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

August 4, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 4-Aug-03	MART1 1-Aug-03
1 Month	6.3339	6.2875
3 Months	6.2982	6.285
6 Months	7.275	7.0911
1 Year	8.3903	7.6967
2 Years	10.07	9.4696
3 Years	10.8617	10.3867
4 Years	11.175	10.6817
5 Years	11.43	10.8267
7 Years	11.9467	11.6967
10 Years	12.1117	11.78
20 Years	12.2714	12.0983
25 Years	12.6321	12.4817

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2003

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•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

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L-BAHAY 8383742/6447699

LBAHAY 7113540

LIPAT BAHAY 7312409

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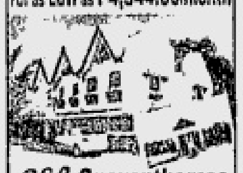

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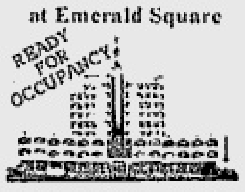

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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR - of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on AUG 12, 2003 Tues at 2:30 in the afternoon - Respectively March 15-Apr. 12, 2003
SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer
(PDI-Aug. 5, 2003)

MARA PAWNSHOP I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION Sale on AUG 12, 2003. Tues. at 10.30, 11:30, 1:30, 12.30 and 8.30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively Mar 15 - Apr 12, 2003
SONS OF J. LANUZA, Auctioneer
(PDI-Aug. 5, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave. Baclaran. P'QUE. M.M. AUCTION Sale on Aug. 12, 2003, TUES. at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, MARCH 15 - APR. 12, 2003.
SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer
(PDI - Aug. 5, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of Sta. Elena Golf Club Inc. Share#M018B & Canlubang Golf & Country Club Inc. Share#1762 in the name of EDMUNDO T. ONGSIAKO. If no one contest one year from date of publication a new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- July 29, Aug. 5 & 12, 2003)

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website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **ACQUISITION OF TWENTY (20) UH-1H HELICOPTERS with INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SUPPORT (ILS)** for the Philippine Air Force, with an approved budget of **Six Hundred Fifty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Eight Thousand Pesos (Php 659,808,000.00)** chargeable against the CY 2000 and CY 2002 AFP Modernization Program funds.

Only bids from prime contractors who may be the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the UH-1H Helicopter and its T-53 Engine or their duly authorized repair facilities shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 29, 2003** until **August 14, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Sixty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php 65,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. The pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of the first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 14, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **September 2, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the opening of bids at **10:00 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Original Signed)

ERNESTO G CAROLINA
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 29 & Aug 5, 2003)

EQUIPMENTS FOR SALE!!!

The following articles are offered for sale with their indicative (negotiable) prices:

Item	Location	Indicative Price
Riding Mower	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	PhP 100,000
Kubota Tractor Model L4200DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 300,000
Kubota Tractor Model L3300DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 200,000
Generator KVA 250 (A1 Condition)	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 690,00

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Frolian Tejada at 885 3739 and (0917)627 8288. Offers should be sent to the above officer at Building A, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than August 15, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

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We, the family of the late

ROSARIO ALTOVEROS ALARILLA

(March 20, 1904 - July 22, 2003)

Wish to express our profound gratitude to the countless people who sent flowers and visited us in our time of grief. Special mention also goes to our townmates including all barangay and local officials in Meycauayan, Bulacan who joined us in our vigil and daily Mass for our dearest "Inang". We thank also the different religious denominations who offered mass cards and prayers for the eternal repose of her soul. Words cannot adequately convey how grateful we are for all the generous help and loving support extended to us by friends and relatives during the times when we were in deep sorrow.

May God be with us always.

Mayor Eduardo 'Eddie' Alarilla
Meycauayan, Bulacan
(in behalf of the family)

Our Dearly Beloved

ALFREDA TAN RICALDE

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 3, 2003 at the age of 79.
And joined her husband, **Gov. Tomas Ong Ricalde** (†).

Her loving children **Pelagio** and **Juliana Rodriguez** (†), **Lesmes** and **Lourdes San Jose**, **Tomas, Jr.** and **Josephine Ramos**; grandchildren **Rosario** and **Rodelio Bito**, **Regina**, **Rebecca**, **Rowena** and **Rafael**, **Elizabeth** and **Thomas**, **Dorothy** and **Joseph** and great grandchild **Juliana Bito**; brothers and sisters **Pedro Tan**, **Ramona De Veyra**, **Vicente Tan**, **Estanisla Barrera,** and **Antonio Tan**; relatives and friends request prayers to the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Park Viewing Chapel, Marikina City and will be cremated at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina City at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. funeral Mass.

"You will forever be in our hearts."

DR. JULITA "JOY" MAPALAD - DE GUZMAN

of Fond Du-Lac, Wisconsin, U.S.A. and San Jose, Batangas

Joined her Creator on July 26, 2003 at the age of 58.

Her loving husband **Melchor** and **Cente**; sister **Rosalina** and husband **Rolando**; brothers **Rodolfo** and wife **Nilda**, **Armando** and wife **Luz**, **Crisanto Neil** (†), nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive on Wednesday, August 6, 2003 and will lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 10, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Cemetery, Marikina City after the 9:00 am mass.

"Now Lord, you have kept your word
Let your servant go in peace"

We, the family of the late

RODOLFO ECO DULA

August 12, 1948 - July 21, 2003

wish to thank all those who condoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

Your offerings of Holy Masses and prayers have given us the strength to accept our loss.

May the Lord bless you for your generosity.

Teresita Borja Salalima

Passed on to be with our Lord on 3 August 2003

Her beloved husband **Romy**; children **Sirikit**, **Jet**, and **Jumbo**; grandson **Benjamin Romeo**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Xavierville Chapel, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Her cremation will be on Wednesday, 6 August 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Marikina City.

JUANITO MUÑOZ SAMPANG

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 2, 2003 at the age of 68

His wife Antonina Sampang; children Alex, Chat, Vindy, Doh, Zandro, Jay Jay, Sonny, Maricel & Jhun; grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at the Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City

Interment will be on Thursday, August 7, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City

---

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

John 3:16

The family members and relatives of

DRA. ROBERTA VENADAS HERNANDEZ

who peacefully joined her Creator on July 14, 2003 convey their sincerest, gratitude to all those who offered prayers and masses and extended support and comforting presence during their time of bereavement.

JAIME SALAS JAVIER

of Nasugbu, Batangas
(July 22, 1927 – August 4, 2003)

His bereaved family: wife, **Virginia Marudo Javier**; children: **Marichris**, **Carlo & Dalia**; **Jojo & Vilma**, **Fides & Patricia**, grandchildren: **Raffy**, **Jami**, **Hobi**, **Kino**, **Jiggy & Nadine Christine** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the VENICE Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapel Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." — *I Corinthians 2:9*

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Province of Bukidnon
CITY OF MALAYBALAY
* * *
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
(088) 221-2267; (088) 813-2744. (088) 813-2739 (Fax)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

(FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, SITE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MALAYBALAY PUBLIC MARKET AND BUS TERMINAL PROJECT POBLACION, MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON)

The Sangguniang Panglungsod of the City of Malaybalay has approved the flotation of the "Malaybalay City Bond" to finance the planning, design, site development and construction, Malaybalay Public Market and Bus Terminal in the Poblacion, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. All interested proponents with the following qualifications are invited to prequalify of the said project;

1. PCAB/IAC --- AAA and the large "B" for roads and buildings;
2. Must be capable of undertaking the planning, design, construction, and site development of a civic/ commercial center;
3. Must be willing to accept payment in the form of Malaybalay City bond redeemable in seven (7) years from the date of issuance.

A complete set of Prequalification statements (Pre-C) forms may be obtained by interested contractors and/or joint ventures from the PBAC through a written application address to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. Request submitted by mail should include a Manager's / Cashier's check in the amount ad currency indicated above in favor of the City Government of Malaybalay. The City Government of Malaybalay will promptly mail the documents through LBC / ABOITIZ, but under no circumtances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents mailed to the applicant.

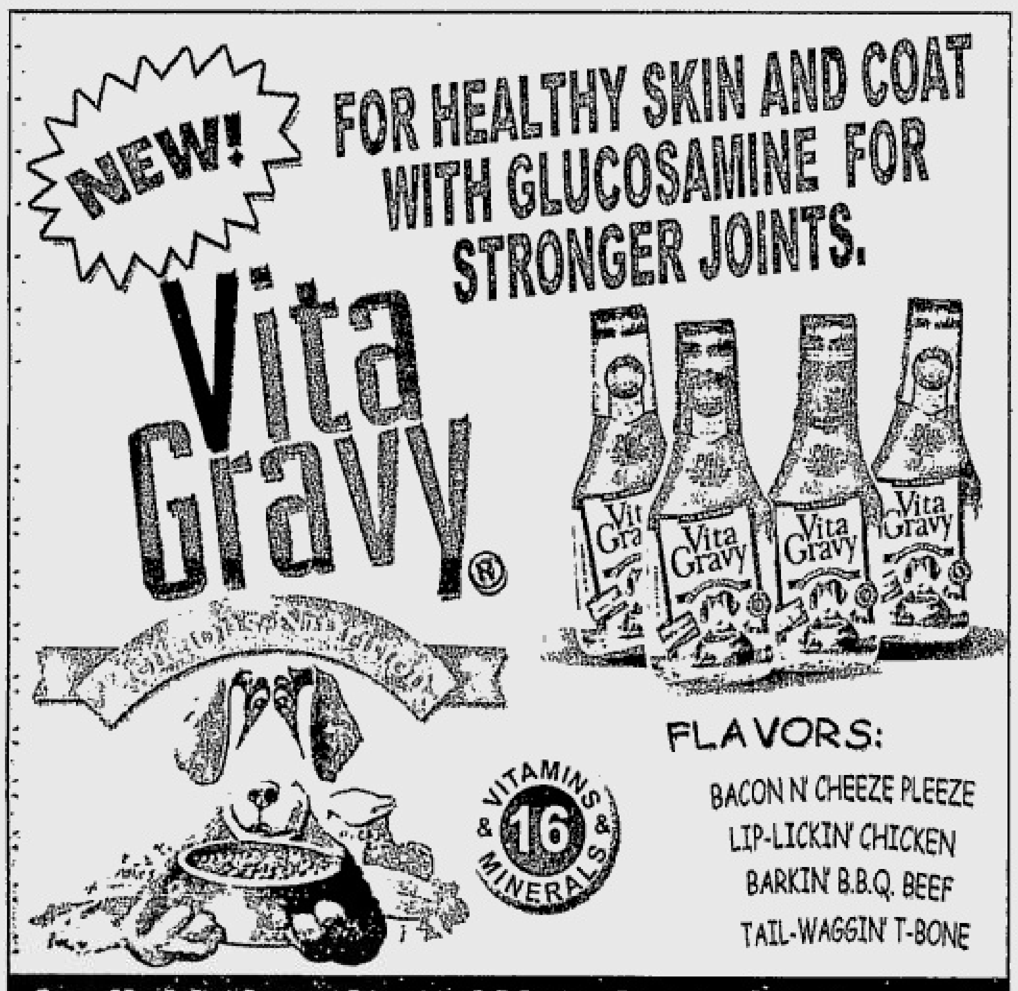
Interested contractors may obtain further information at the PBAC, City Hall Compound, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, Philippines, or call (088)-221-4947, look for ENGR. BENITO O. LUGTU / TOMAS Y. TAGA, Project Manager.

Complete, Pre-C Forms must likewise be submitted to PBAC Secretariat on or before August 18, 2003 at office hours (before 5:00 PM). Documents submitted/ received late will not be considered and will be returned unopened. All applicant contractors will be notified in writing on the status of the Pre-C evaluation. Only prequalified contractors will be issued contract documents. Bidding date will be announced later.

The City Government of Malaybalay reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by PBAC, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FLORENCIO T. FLORES, JR.
City Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 5, 2003)



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Repubika ng Pilipinas
Department of Agriculture
National Irrigation Administration
(Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig)
CASECNAN MULTIPURPOSE IRRIGATION AND POWER PROJECT

OFFICE ADDRESS : CLSU Compound
Muñoz Science City, Philippines
TELEPHONE : (044) 456 0272
TELEFAX : (044) 456 0716

July 31, 2003

INVITATION TO BID NO. CMIPP-OE-01-03

The NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION – Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project, CLSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, invites all pre-qualified SUPPLIERS/DEALERS to submit bids for the supply and delivery of various Office Equipment (Computer Desktop and Server) under Purchase Request Nos. 111-03 and 881-03 with a total approved budget of P642,750.00.

P.R. NO.	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	EST. COST. (P)	DELIVERY POINT
1. 111-03	Computer Desktop, Compac Evo; Intel Pentium 4; 2.4 Ghz.; complete w/ accessories	P 90,000.00	NIA, CLSU Compound Science City of Muñoz
2. 881-03	Unit Server, Compac Proliant ML 370 G3 or equiv. Complete w/ accessories; 5-units Switch, 24 port 10/100 MBPS; 5-units UPS, 350 VA; 1-unit Smart-UPS 1000VA w/ power mgt. Software and cable; 1-unit ProConnect CPU KVM switch, 4 ports w/ cabling kit	552,750.00	NIA, Central Office EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
	TOTAL	P 642,750.00	

Issuance of Bid Forms to interested parties shall be from August 05-13, 2003.

Sealed Bids in DUPLICATE forms accompanied by a Bidders Bond in the form of CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR MANAGER'S CHECK ONLY and equivalent to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total approved Purchase Request budget shall be dropped in the Bid Box for Goods/ Supplies and Services at the office of the Project Manager not later than 12:00 NN of August 14, 2003 and will be publicly opened at 1:00 PM of the same date at NIA-CMIPP Conference Hall.

The NIA-CMIPP/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect found therein and to accept the offer most beneficial to the government. The decision of the BAC in the evaluation of bids is final.

All inquiries pertaining to this Invitation to Bid may be directed to the above mentioned Office.

(Sgd.) SERAFIN A. PALTENG
Project Manager

(PDI – Aug. 2 & 5, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Security Services

The Philippine Ports Authority invites interested security agencies/contractors to apply for eligibility, and if qualified, to bid for security services for the Port District of Visayas.

AREA PMOs COVERED:
- PMO-Tacloban
- PMO-Iloilo
- PMO-Pulupandan
- PMO-Dumaguete
- PMO-Tagbilaran
- PDO-Visayas

Application for eligibility may be secured from the Secretariat, Port District Security Bids and Award Committee (PDSBAC) at PDO-Visayas, CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City on August 18-21, 2003. Bid documents can be obtained after payment of non-refundable fee of Php 800.00 only after having been qualified. Sealed bid shall be submitted to the PDSBAC Secretariat with bid security equivalent to the amount prescribed below:

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%)
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 ½%)

Deadline for submission of application - August 28, 2003
For eligibility and to bid

PPA reserves the right to reject any or all application to pre-qualify and to bid, waive any defect/informality therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) MANUEL T. GORME
District Manager/Chairman
Port District Security Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-- Aug. 5 & 12, 2003)

Rice price and supply stability, a social responsibility – NFA

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is now focused on assuring rice price and supply stability nationwide especially in the aftermath of a strong typhoon and the recent failed mutiny of junior military officers.

Calling on the agency's field officials, NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap ordered the strategic positioning of the agency's rice stocks to preempt any possible disruption in the supply of good quality NFA rice in the market.

Yap noted that typhoons tend to isolate far-flung areas and island provinces. Other emergency situations like the recent failed mutiny that caused the temporary closure of routes going to Metro Manila further amplify the vulnerability of the rice supply in high consumption areas like the metropolis, he added.

"The assurance that there will always be rice available for the consumers at the price they can afford is the primary mandate of the NFA," Yap said. "It is the agency's social responsibility that has to be fulfilled at all costs barring emergencies brought about by nature or man-made causes," he said.

Dianne A. Silva, manager of NFA General Santos City said the area has sufficient rice supply good to last for the duration of the lean production period.

Silva said General Santos City has more than 240,000 bags of rice in its inventory. The present stock, which is good for 43 days, will be further augmented by the rice dispersal from Region XII programmed to arrive by September this year.

Included in the stock inventory, according to Silva, are some 72,000 Bags of imported Thailand rice that arrived the first week of July and around 180,000 bags of rice serving as food security stock.

In line with the agency's quality rice program, Silva said that only good quality rice is being sold at P16 per kilogram by NFA-accredited rice retailers and outlets including the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke(BGP) and Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera participating in the Coconut Farmers Food Access Program (TGL-CFFAP) located in the coconut producing areas in the city.

Silva encouraged consumers to bring to NFA's attention their comments and suggestions related to the supply and price of the basic staple in the city following the reactivation of its Consumers Action Unit (CAU) with telephone hotline numbers 552-3283 and 552-6137. NFA has also launched nationwide the "TEXT-NFA", enabling the agency to respond quickly to complaints, suggestions and inquiries via cellphone no. 0917-6210927.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Camarines Norte Provincial Office
Emil 2 Bldg., J. Lukban St., Daet, Camarines Norte

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, the following landowners are hereby notified that their property/properties hereunder listed to wit:

	Landowner	Location	Area (Has.)	Title
1.	Placido Roquiz, Jr.	Dagult, Labo, Camarines Norte	16.3950	T-18346
2.	Soledad Pajarillo	Iberica, Labo, Camarines Norte	20.0921	T-15294
3.	Carlos de Jesus	Napaod, Labo, Camarines Norte	24.9352	T-12208
4.	Francisco Regala	Bautista, Labo, Camarines Norte	9.2000	T-0318
5.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	10.1522	T-158
6.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	2.7053	T-143
7.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	3.7458	T-342
8.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	2.2741	T-139
9.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	21.3522	T-227
10.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	2.5617	T-136
11.	Global Business Bank	Baay, Labo, Camarines Norte	3.9846	T-547

are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Under DAR Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2003, the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within Sixty (60) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiary/ies, or submit evidence for determining just compensation.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said property being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act No. 6657

(Sgd.) HUBERTO L. VILLARAZA, CESO V
PARO II

(PDI--July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2003)

MEYCAUAYAN WATER DISTRICT
MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN ☎ (044) 840-0456 (DIGITEL)
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Meycauayan Water District (MWD) is inviting interested contractors, having a valid PCAB license, to pre-qualify and participate in the bidding for the following projects:

1. St. Francis Well Drilling Project – Supply of labor, tools, materials and equipment for the drilling of one (1) unit production deepwell 350 mm telescopic to 250 mm with a depth of 305 mbgl using mud rotary method, Q=24 lps. Materials shall be Spiral and ERW B.I. pipes schedule 40.
2. Pantok Pipelaying Project – Supply of labor, tools, equipment and materials for the laying of approximately 2.40 km uPVC pipelines with pipe diameter ranging from 75 mm to 150 mm, including pipe appurtenances

Mode of payment for the pipelaying projects will be 36 equal monthly payments, commencing 6 months after completion and acceptance of the project, with a minimal mobilization fee and 12 equal monthly payments for the deepwell construction.

Interested contractors may personally obtain pre-qualification forms at a nominal non-refundable fee of P100.00 from the PBAC Secretariat, MWD Main Office, Poblacion, Meycauayan, Bulacan

Deadline of submission of Pre-C Forms	August 18, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	To be announced later
Pre-Bid Conference	To be announced later
Submission of Bids	To be announced later

No Pre-C documents shall be accepted after the stipulated deadline for the submission as stated above. All applicant contractors shall be notified in writing after the status of Pre-C evaluation. Only pre-qualified contractors will be eligible to submit bids.

The MWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the MWD.

(Sgd.) MARIANO C. SANGALANG, JR.
PBAC Chairman

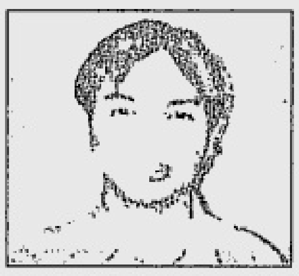
(PDI – August 1, 3 & 5, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **BENJAMIN CLAVE, JR.** whose picture appears above, has been on AWOL from **VETTE INDUSTRIAL SALES** since ***July 09, 2003***. All transaction made on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–August 5, 2003)

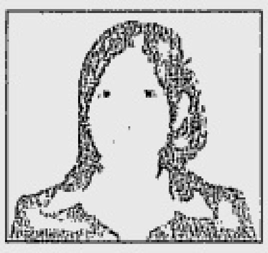
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that **FERDIEVAL MALABONGA**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **VETTE INDUSTRIAL SALES** since ***July 04, 2003***. All transaction made on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–August 5, 2003)

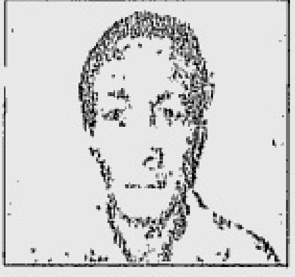
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that **RACHELLE CASTRO PIOSON**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **VETTE INDUSTRIAL SALES** since ***July 16, 2003***. All transaction made on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–August 5, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that **ALBERTO S. ARROYO**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **VETTE INDUSTRIAL SALES** since ***July 09, 2003***. All transaction made on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–August 5, 2003)

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For Fast Cash, do you turn to the help of personal loans? However, these loans make you pay more than necessary due to exorbitant interest rates. Plus, there are fixed monthly amortizations to contend with and a personal loan is a one-time cash provision. What if you need additional cash? Are you willing to go through the whole process of applying for a loan again?

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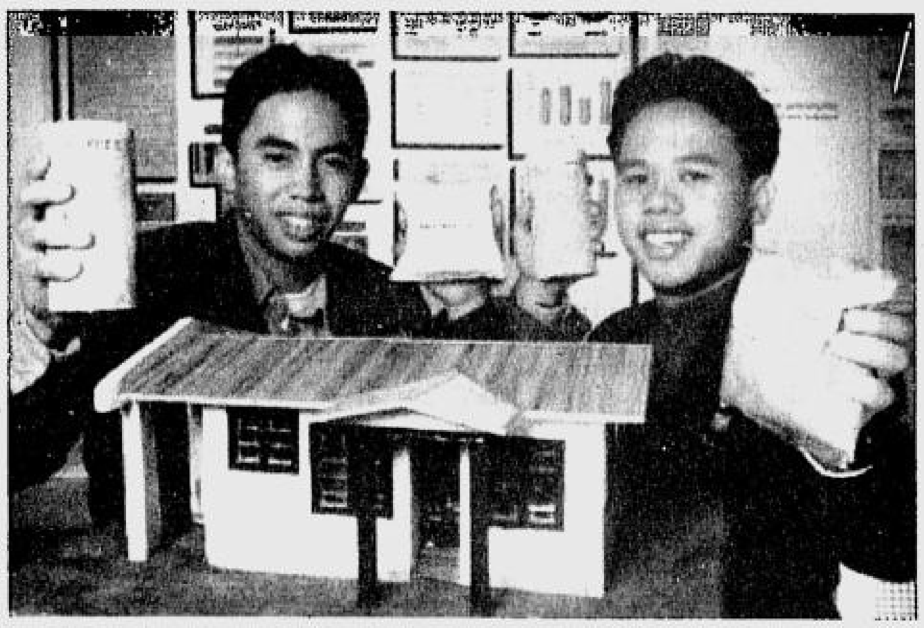
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

2 young inventors produce cement from sugar wastes


NAVAJA, left, and Laureto show off their finished products.

By Charles E. Buban

FOR THESE two young men—both 21 years old—from the sugar-producing town of Musuan in the province of Bukidnon, Mindanao, necessity is the mother of invention.

Living next to a sugar factory, Bonar Laureto and Deorex David Navaja grew up being exposed to the not so sweet side of the sugar industry.

"Ever since, our community has to deal with sugarcane filter cake and bagasse (crushed sugarcane) ash— two major solid wastes produced by sugar factories here," Laureto explained.

Pressed filter cakes are foul-smelling, explained Laureto, while bagasse ashes which can remain suspended in the air, contains high amounts of silica, which when inhaled can cause silicosis of the lungs.

Need to do something

These sugarcane by-products are what most sugar-producing communities around the country have learned to live with.

"We realized we need to do something and not just find suitable dumps for these harmful waste products," Laureto said.

What the two did could finally solve their community's problem: Laureto and Navaja found a way to make commercial-grade cement out of these solid wastes.

They discovered that these wastes contain components needed for the manufacture of cement-like material.

The two tested three methods of cement manufacture and made different types of cement blocks. The result was a cement with an acceptable level of stability.

Less expensive

According to the two inventors, their discovery is less expensive to manufacture and can help both reduce waste and save on natural resources.

"But we're not putting cement factories out of business," clarified Laureto. "In fact, we are offering them other means of manufacturing their cement or give small businesses to venture into cement manufacture."

Laureto said producing cement from sugarcane waste is also dependent on the sugar factories that produce the waste.

Design methods

"We designed a method of purifying these wastes to achieve maximum percentage composition of the desired chemicals. Then, these chemicals are proportioned to specific amounts that, when allowed chemically to react, forms cement compounds," Laureto explained.

Laureto also said these compounds are further exposed to a specific condition at a specific time sequence to allow chemical reaction to take place, thus forming cement compounds with approximately the same percentage composition to that of its commercially produced counterparts.

"We have an independent group that tested our experimental products and from the results, the chemical composition and compressive strength of our concrete are comparable to that of its counterparts in the market.

High school project

The cement project Laureto and Navaja did, began as a science high school project.

"From there, we were able to perfect our invention, thanks to the support of our high school teachers and our professors at the Central Mindanao University," reminisced Laureto.

Their discovery earned them the Merck Internship Award given by the Worldwide Young Researchers for the Environment in Hannover, Germany in October 2000 and the Sibol Award (college level) granted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (Wipo) during the National Inventors' Week in November 2001.

Environmental envoy

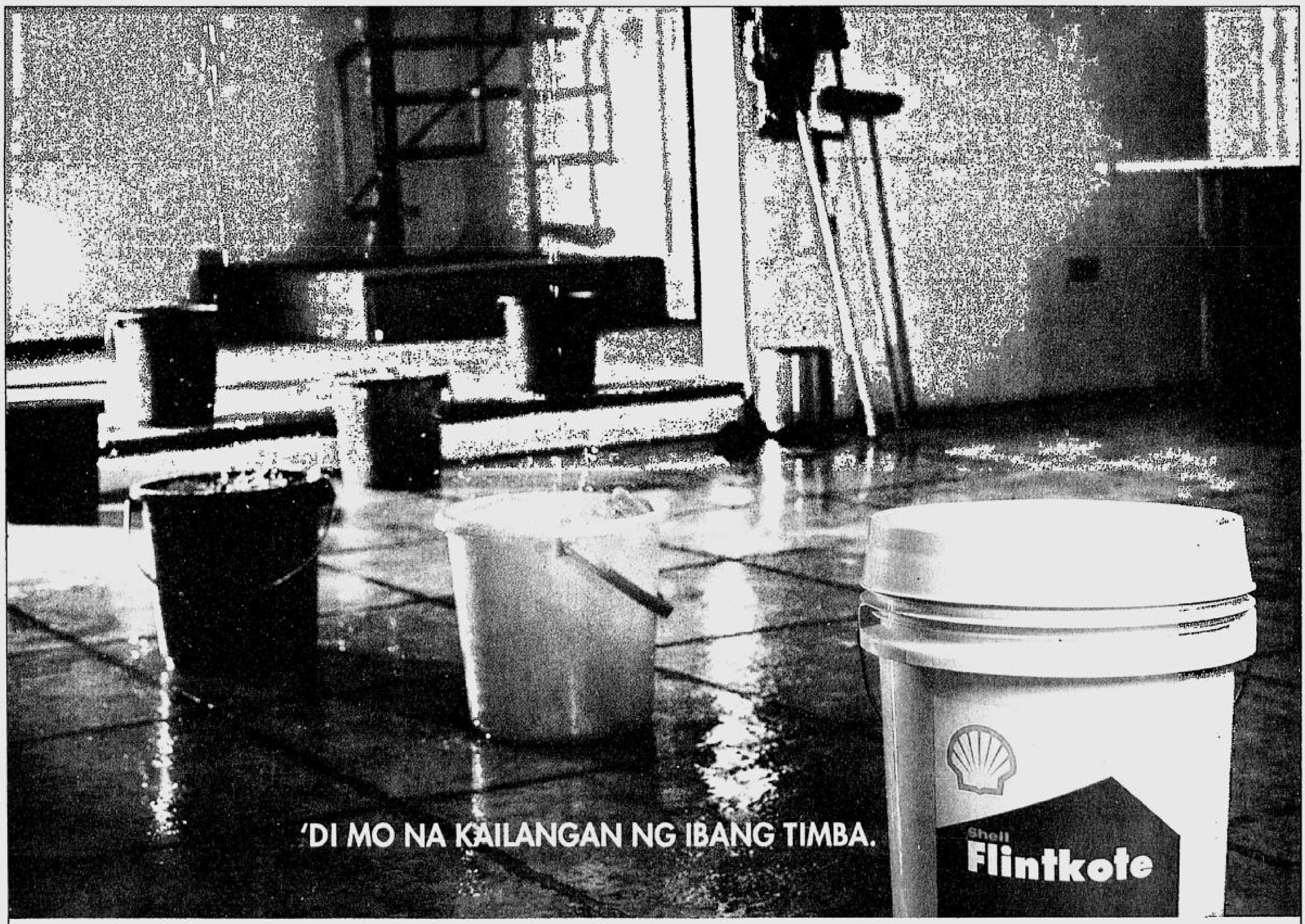
Their discovery has application in recycling and reducing wastes that companies like Bayer took notice of their work.

Laureto was among the young innovators chosen by Bayer Philippines last year to go to the global headquarters of the Bayer Group in Germany under its Young Environmental Envoy Program, catering to students to help them understand the role that the industry plays in environmental protection.

Last month, he went to Sydney, Australia to attend the Eco-Innovate Youth Forum '03, a convention intended to switch young people to the ultimate sustainability challenge—turning "eco-innovations" into viable applications.

"Now that they have this knowledge and experience of the various components necessary to foster their own ideas, we are giving them a chance to further develop this so the world may benefit from what they found," explained Dorothy Claro of Bayer.

Laureto and Navaja are currently completing all the requirements to have their invention patented. It's a toilsome procedure, Laureto admitted, but he and Navaja are determined to complete the process.



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When location alone is not the complete story

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

THE REAL estate saying—"The three most important things in real estate investments are location, location, location"—is more complicated than it seems. If you are investing purely on this notion, then you may be putting yourself in a difficult situation since deciding on location alone can turn out to be a bad investment.

Location is very important for all real estate investments. However, you have to look into the details and intricacies of a specific location for you to have a hand on the future appreciation of your real estate investment.

Your goal is to be able to distinguish a good location from a bad one and there are many factors that make a good (or bad) location. These various factors include:

- **Character of the location**—In selecting a specific location, it is only you who will be able to tell your real needs and wants. The character of the user or the intended use should match with the character of the location. If you want clean fresh air on the mountains and want to wake up to the sound of birds, then a location out of Metro Manila—perhaps to the nearby areas of Laguna, Antipolo or Tagaytay—might be the perfect location for you.

Similarly, if you would want a location near the mall because you like to shop, the surrounding condominiums or townhouses beside the malls may be the best location for you.

- **Allowable use**—Prior to investing in a specific location, make sure that your intended use is allowed in the area. There are many pieces of property that are located along a busy main road but the classification of such property is still residential. So if you plan to put up a commercial building in an area classified as a residential one, the building official may not allow you. You may have to request conversion of the use of the property but this may take some time.

I have seen some businessmen and entrepreneurs who bought residential lots inside gated subdivisions thinking that they can put up a business in the neighborhood only to find out that the homeowners association controls and restricts such businesses within the community.

It is best that you check the restrictions that are imposed on the property before you decide to invest.

- **Access to the location**—As to any type of real estate, access to the location is very important. For certain areas, the access today may not be the access tomorrow. Some access roads are only temporary which is very common during the site development phase of a subdivision. During the preselling phase of planned communities, the access for prospective buyers might just be chosen for convenience but when the property gets finished, it might be at a different location. Make sure that before you buy a piece of property, you actually locate and identify the entrance gate and access route.

- **The master plan**—The master plan of an area shows you all of the planned developments. The location of the residential property, open spaces, commercial lots, parks, playgrounds, churches, etc. are all shown in the master plan. When assessing a property, spend time looking at the master plan.

- **Demographics**—These are the elements that pertain to the characteristics of people that live in a specific area. This includes income levels, age, gender, etc. In general, people who are in the same bracket cluster within a specific residential sector.

- **Traffic count**—The volume of traffic can affect the values at a specific location. When considering a place to invest in, you can check the traffic patterns in an area. If you would want a place that is quiet at night, then make sure that you visit the site at night to make sure that it is indeed quiet. You might be surprised to find out that it becomes a meeting place of people and tends to be noisy up to the wee hours of the morning.

Increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic in an area can have both positive and negative effects.

- **Population growth**—Imagine how the area will look like 10 or 15 years down the road. Will you still want to live in it if it will be congested in a few years? Population growth in an area can be a double-edged sword. It has good effects that more people generate more economic activity in an area, but the other side is that it can also generate more problems with peace and order, pollution, etc.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Final advice

In investing, it is important to envision the future in mind. Ask yourself: how will the property look like 10 or even 20 years from today? Will it appreciate tremendously, or is there a possibility of it not increasing due to other external factors that can be foreseen? Real estate investing is not purely getting measurable inputs but a lot of it is in your heart—intuition. Remember that all real estate property appreciate. But some property appreciate faster than others.

The saying location, location, location is dependent on many things and it is only the end-user of the property that will be able to tell whether the location is good or bad. A specific location may be the perfect place for one person but another person may swear that he will never live in that place.

It is best that you be prudent in the choices that you make in deciding your real estate investments. After all, it will probably be the most expensive purchase that you will make in your entire life.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952-0684.)

Pag-Ibig strengthens link with developers

By Charles E. Buban

FINDING one and getting immediate feedback in return will now be much easier for an inquiring developer.

The Home Development Mutual Fund, more popularly known as the Pag-Ibig Fund, has agreed to provide a help desk that will be stationed every time the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association holds a gathering.

This new feedback mechanism was announced by Pag-Ibig Fund president and chief executive officer (CEO) Romero Federico Quimbo, who signed a memorandum of understanding with newly elected officers of the SHDA.

The memorandum, which creates the Pag-Ibig-SHDA help desk, will establish a solid link that developers can go to for updates on Pag-Ibig circulars, guidelines and related announcements on its housing programs.

Partnership and synergy

The partnership and synergy between the SHDA and the HDMF is important in the promotion of the Pag-Ibig Fund's Home Lending Programs and fast-tracking housing production, said Quimbo.

Addressing the SHDA business meeting last week held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City, he recognized the housing industry's role in pump priming the economy.

"The housing sector has always been one of the performing sectors in improving the quality of life of the people as well as in the country's overall development process," he said.

In fact, President Macapagal-Arroyo highlighted this contribution in her recent State of the Nation Address, he further said.

Respond to various concerns

Newly elected SHDA national president Marilu Alferez hopes the help desk will respond to various concerns and issues encountered by their members in implementing Pag-Ibig Fund housing programs.

"The help desk will be present in every SHDA activity and forum and will be manned by Pag-Ibig officials to ensure quick assistance and resolution of feedback and concerns of developers," said Alferez.

"This is also an excellent venue for developers to meet and discuss with Pag-Ibig officials without having to go through the bureaucratic channels," said Jesus Atencio, newly elected SHDA chair.

He said the help desk is one means for the SHDA to respond to the call of President Macapagal to promote and fast-track the implementation of mass housing programs and the encouragement of private sector participation in the national shelter program.

Increase selling price

Quimbo, during the business meeting, also revealed Pag-Ibig will soon pass a resolution increasing the maximum selling price of housing packages under Batas Pambansa 220—from P500,000 to P750,000.

"This will enhance greater production specially for property developers affected by the increasing cost of construction," Quimbo said.

Interest rates for housing loan packages, however, will remain the same: 6 percent for loans up to P150,000; 9 percent for over P150,000 but not more than P225,000; 10 percent for over P225,000 but not more than P0.5 million; and 12 percent for over P0.5 million.

"Personally, I welcome this development as this will provide greater affordability for Pag-Ibig Fund members and enhance their capacity to acquire affordable housing," noted Atencio.

Fast-tracking mass housing

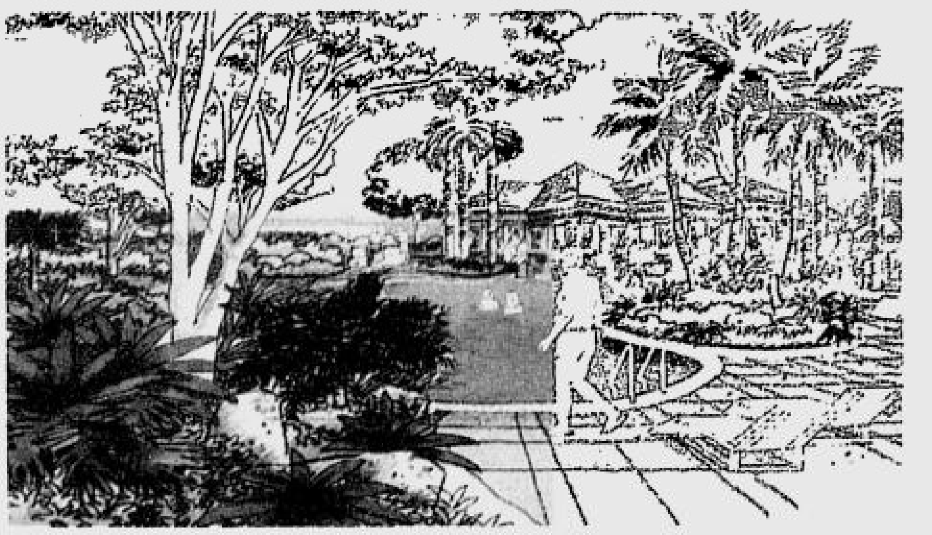
The leader of the country's largest organization of subdivision and housing developers said the formation of the help desk is part of the association's continued push to fast-track mass housing projects until 2004.

Apart from the help desk, Alferez also announced the formation of a task force that will thresh out specific concerns and issues affecting the private developers and other concerned housing agencies.

The said task force was part of a memorandum of agreement signed by the SHDA with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the departments of Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture, Interior and Local Government, and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

"The MOA will provide avenues between and among government agencies and the private sector to ensure compliance to Executive Order 45, which prescribes time periods for the issuance of housing-related certifications, clearances and permits and imposing sanctions for failure to observe order," said Alferez.

The task force, Alferez said, will greatly enhance a faster production and implementation of housing projects.



COMMON areas, entrance ways and main roads of Ayala Hillside Estates will feature tropical trees, the colorful foliage and big-leafed plants that characterize the mélange of the Asian landscape style now in vogue. Referred to as the Asian fusion, the look incorporates plants indigenous to the region.

Living among Asian trees and landscapes

FULL-GROWN trees, some of which are 40 years old, are a special attraction of Ayala Hillside Estates, Ayala Land Inc.'s high-end residential subdivision in Quezon City.

Carved out from the original Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club in Old Balara, the 22-hectare development draws much of its character and charm from the Acacia rain trees, kalachuchi and mango trees that used to dot the fairways of the old course.

Valuable asset

According to Efren Aurelio of Aurelio+ACL Asia, landscape planners of Ayala Hillside Estates, a mature tree with a full canopy is a valuable asset to any development simply because it is difficult to replicate. For this reason, streets in this idyllic subdivision were planned and laid out with the trees in mind.

Near the entrance gate, for instance, the road was designed to encircle rather than cut through a cluster of mature kalachuchis. Where possible, some of the younger trees were replanted to give way to the improved efficiency of the road network. But as a rule, much respect was accorded to these original settlers of the land.

For the individual lot owner, a tree with a full canopy significantly adds to a property's attraction, says Aurelio. For one, it improves the microclimate of a home. "The shade provided by a tree reduces the temperature of a home and greatly adds to its comfort," says Aurelio who also designed portions of the redeveloped Greenbelt gardens in Makati.

In addition, he points out that the area under a tree is a highly suitable environment for tropical garden arrangements, which are now threatening to dislodge the ubiquitous Mediterranean landscape theme.

The landscape architect who has done projects in China, Hong Kong and Singapore explains that tropical arrangements make use of plants that thrive in the region and are thus most appropriate for a Philippine setting.

This, in addition to a renewed appreciation of Asian culture, is fueling a keen interest in landscapes closely associated with some Asian destinations.

Greenery

In fact, the entrance ways, main roads and common areas of Ayala Hillside Estates will feature the colorful foliage and big-leafed plants that characterize the melange of Balinese, Malaysian, and Thai landscape styles now in vogue. Referred to as Asian fusion, the look incorporates the gumamela, bromeliads and heliconias as well as palms, bauhinias and yellow ginger plants. The greenery is complemented by the generous use of wooden moldings, natural stone and structures that let the air through.

All these will find a natural home in Ayala Hillside Estates' rolling terrain. A series of sub-neighborhoods independent from but nestled among the fairways of the new executive course of Capitol Hills, the subdivision promises to be one of most scenic spots in Metro Manila. The residential areas which also offer waterfront lots likewise present views of the Montalban mountain range and the Marikina Valley at some points.

The Residences shows great sales take-up

AYALA Land Inc. sold in less than a month half of its full year's sales target for condominium units at The Residences at Greenbelt.

Tristan de la Rosa, ALI senior vice president, said that since the project's formal launch on June 11, ALI has seen an "overwhelming sales performance" for Laguna Tower, the first of three towers it is offering under The Residences at Greenbelt.

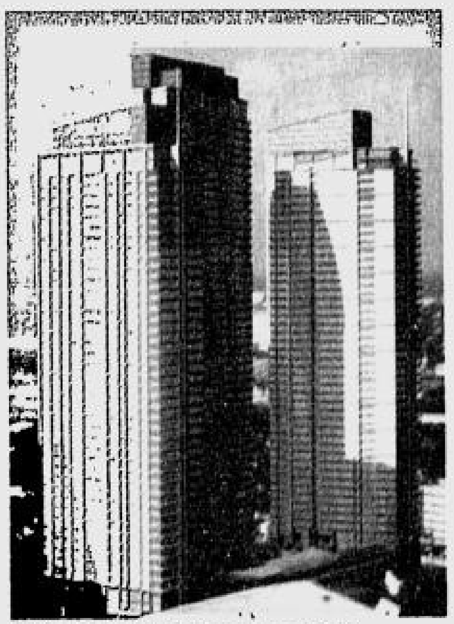
Lifestyle

Halfway mark, De la Rosa said, was reached in less than a month of market offer. He attributed this remarkable record to The Residences' unparalleled ability to offer dynamic and vibrant lifestyles to unit owners.

"The lifestyle that the project affords is consistent with the lifestyle that our buyers already have or desire to have," said De la Rosa. "It is both responsive to the social demands that their status or professions carry and to family-life considerations for privacy and intimate living."

The Residences at Greenbelt is located at the Greenbelt complex, which bears the most esthetically appealing verdant elegance ever possessed by a leisure and commercial complex in the metropolis.

Bounded by Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Greenbelt Drive, Esperanza Drive and Paseo de Roxas, the first tower has 48 stories, offering two- and three-bedroom homes from 118 to 220 square meters in area, in single-level flats and bilevel units.



THE RESIDENCES at Greenbelt

Panoramic views

Architects International Inc., the US-based architect of the project, implemented an asymmetrical design for the tower to maximize panoramic views of the mountains and the Manila Bay beyond, as well as the beautiful greens on the ground.

The design extensively uses glass, creating a feeling of transparency, lightness and clearness, reflecting Greenbelt's style.

At The Residences at Greenbelt, couples can enjoy valuable moments together with a variety of exciting choices for relaxation, shopping and dining at the condominium podium and at the Greenbelt malls. For children, the same establishments and others nearby provide a myriad of activities to stimulate their growing minds and bodies.

De La Rosa also recounted that among the first set of units to be taken were the garden units at the lower floors. The garden units are bilevel units which have exclusive terrace gardens that complement those at the ground level.

Each of the Laguna Tower units has its own special feature to speak of. Certain sets have the relaxing view of the pool and its surrounding gardens, while another set has the view of dynamic Greenbelt. Another one has the extensive view of the Manila Bay that crawls from the tree-dotted posh subdivisions of the area.

The July 30 groundbreaking rites for the project was in keeping with the ALI tradition of timely completion, the ALI executive also added.

Festival Supermall launches one-stop-shop home centers

THE MONTH-LONG Grand Furniture Festival this month at the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, launches three one-stop-shop home centers at the mall's Home Decor Center, fourth level.

The new sources of decorating and design ideas are Antiques Fair for vintage items, Decor Plus for home improvement materials and fixtures, and Home Bazaar for furnishings and accessories.

These furniture havens are run like *tiangges* (flea markets) where buyers can haggle or compare prices before making a decision. Shoppers can visit 30 stores within these centers.

There will also be a mall-wide home and furniture sale until Aug. 31 and a lecture series called "The Art of Living" every Saturday at 4 p.m.

Celebrity guests and industry leaders talk about condo living, pocket gardens, ikebana, do-it-yourself kitchens and home feng shui. Admission is free.

Retirement community to rise in Subic

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

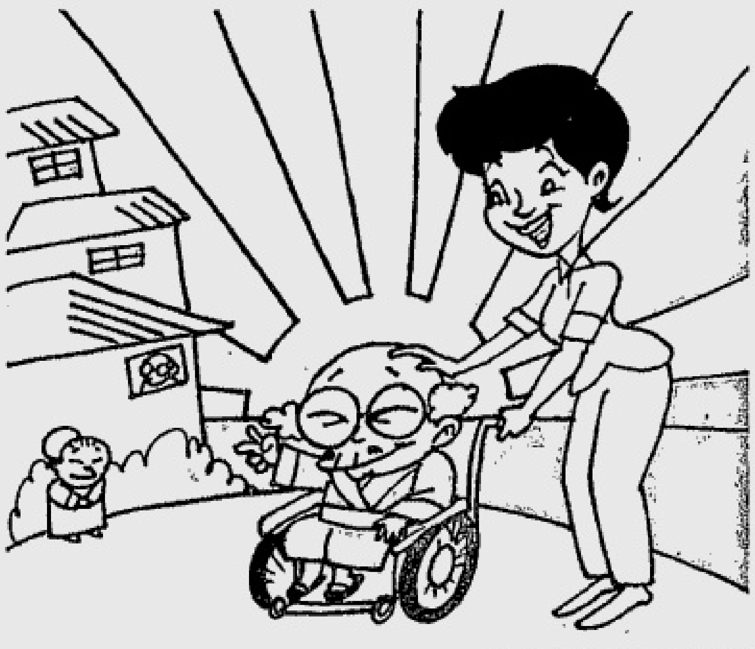


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

REPRESENTATIVES of various retirees' groups in Japan have chosen this freeport as the potential site of a retirement community for Japanese citizens.

Said Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo: "It is a welcome opportunity for us to have such projects in Subic because it will surely encourage more Japanese tourists and businessmen to come here. It will boost Japanese investment in the region and create job opportunities."

Best marketing proposal

In a meeting with Payumo, Atsukumi Munetomo, president and chief operations officer of Japan-based retirees' community developer Rose Princess Homes, noted the security and medical facilities at the Freeport.

"Your security system and medical services will be our best marketing proposal we could offer to our counterparts in Japan. Moreover, the well-preserved environment around Subic freeport will be very beneficial to the retirees," said Munetomo.

Jose Marcelo Jr., deputy general manager of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority, and Yutaka Yamauchi, senior deputy director of Long Stay Foundation Japan, also joined the Japanese delegation that inspected the freeport.

Marcelo said the cost of living in Japan is 60 percent higher than Subic.

Filipino way of caring

"That means the retirees will enjoy their pensions more than those staying in Japan. But most importantly, the Filipino way of caring is already here," he said.

Payumo also told the group that another Japanese investor has proposed to develop the Subic Holiday Mansion, a leisure and retirement housing project in a four-hectare lot in Lower Kalayaan district. Payumo said the proposal is being studied and is expected to get SBMA board approval soon.

Payumo said once developed, the retirees' community will help boost tourism and generate more employment opportunities for Filipinos.

Useful information on painting jobs

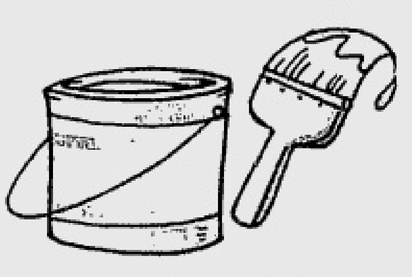


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

HERE are some basic and useful information on painting jobs from Handyman and Handyman Do It Best to make the job hassle-free:

- **What type of brush goes well with what paint?**

Natural-hair brushes work well in solvent-based paints. Synthetic brushes, which are usually made of nylon or polyester, are good for both oil and water-based paints.

- **How much paint do you need for a particular task?**

Calculate the square footage of the surfaces to be painted and divide them by the number of square feet that the paint manufacturing firm indicates can be covered by a gallon (usually 1 gallon or 4 liters = 25 sq. m.) of its paint. The amount of paint you have to use, however, also depends on the type of surface you are painting, the color currently on the surface and the number of coats you wish to apply.

- **What are the differences between flat, high gloss and eggshell finishes?**

These terms refer to the sheen or gloss level of the paint. Flat finish may be used for walls and ceilings for a uniform, nonreflecting appearance. A high-gloss finish, meanwhile, is more durable, stain-resistant and is easier to wash. It is ideal for kitchen and bathroom walls, kitchen cabinets, banisters and railings, trim, furniture, doorjambs and windowsills. Eggshell finish gives a lustrous appearance and is best for halls, bathrooms and playrooms as well as trims. Check out Handyman and Handyman Do It Best's wide selection of paints. Its "Hot Buy of the Month" is Boysen's white latex-based paints, which come with a free three-inch paint brush for every gallon purchased.

- **What's the best way to store leftover paint?**

Store it upside down in a cool place. Avoid putting it in direct sunlight and in places with hot temperature such as garages or next to something warm like heaters. Another key to preserving leftover paint is to make sure the air is kept out of the can.

Instructional demos

Watch out for Handyman and Handyman Do It Best instructional demonstrations on the following dates: "Cleaning Techniques for the Modern Housewife" sponsored by Scotch Brite at Handyman Do It Best Metro East on Aug. 16-17 and Aug. 30-31; "Security Systems for Your Homes" sponsored by Faire International at Handyman Robinsons Galleria on Aug. 22-24 and Handyman Do It Best Metro East on Aug. 8-10, "Application of Flexto Seal," sponsored by Hangang at Handyman Riverbanks on Aug. 1-27.

Also held were "Cleaning Techniques for the Modern Housewife" at Handyman Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Galleria and "Urban Gardening" at Robinsons Do It Best Metro East.

Complete course on real estate installment sales

A SEMINAR on "Realty Installment Sales" will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate today from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor of Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City.

For the rest of the year, Urban Institute will conduct real estate seminars every Saturday. Seminar subjects include the following: Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; Real Estate Taxation; Property Development and HLURB Rules with Updates; and Real Estate Appraisal and Property Management.

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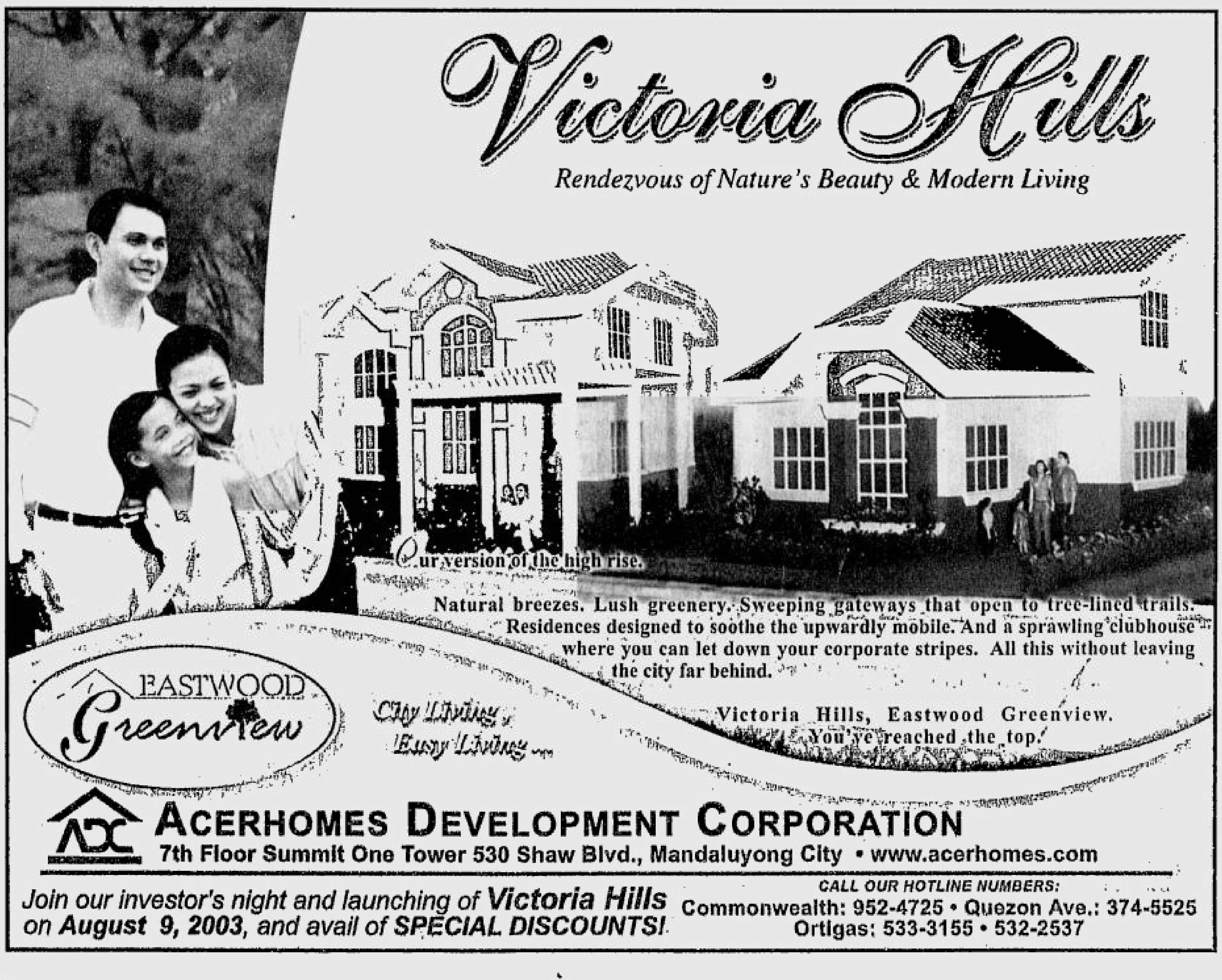

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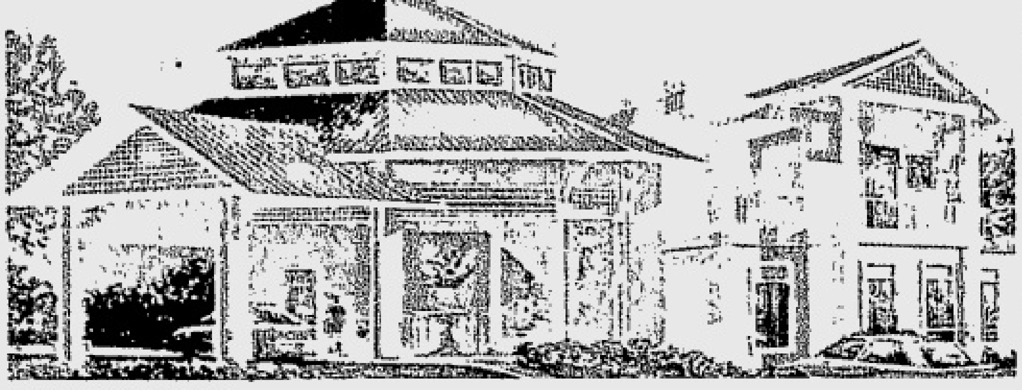

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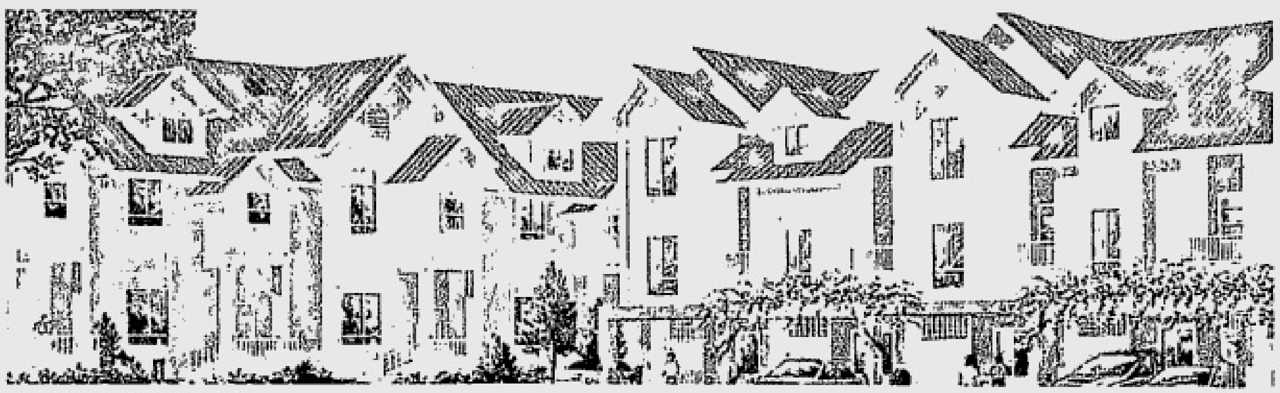


MONTGOMERY Place

MONTGOMERY PLACE

Biggest townhouse dev't project in Manila

One of the bright prospects on the horizon is the townhouse market in Metro Manila

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WITH THE REAL estate sector seen to be finally rising out of its slumber, real estate giant Ayala Land Inc. has decided to move aggressively into tapping new markets to add to its portfolio.

One of the bright prospects on the horizon is the townhouse market in Metro Manila, which ALI first tried through its Montgomery Place project near E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

ALI's Jose Jugo told the INQUIRER in an interview that the biggest attraction of the townhouse developments to prospective buyers is the ownership over the land, as compared to owning a condominium unit.

"That is why we do not target the Makati crowd who are looking more at condominiums. Our primary consideration are people who want to buy their own houses in places that are still near their places of work," Jugo explained.

Jugo said that ALI was already looking at good tracts of land in Metro Manila where the company could duplicate the success of Montgomery Place. Exploratory talks are ongoing but no deal has been finalized yet.

Successful foray

Montgomery is ALI's initial venture into the townhouse market, having made a name for itself more for high-rise residential projects. The project was launched in 2001 after a year of planning.

Spread over 7.5 hectares of land, Montgomery is the biggest townhouse development project in Manila with 270 units currently in the market, of which 80 percent are sold. Another phase is under development with approximately another 100 units to be sold in the market.

"What we are trying to do is to put in more green into our project because these townhouse developments are naturally dense," Jugo said.

ALI has started turning over some of the units to the buyers and ALI's buyers are usually previous townhouse owners who have decided to upgrade or young families.

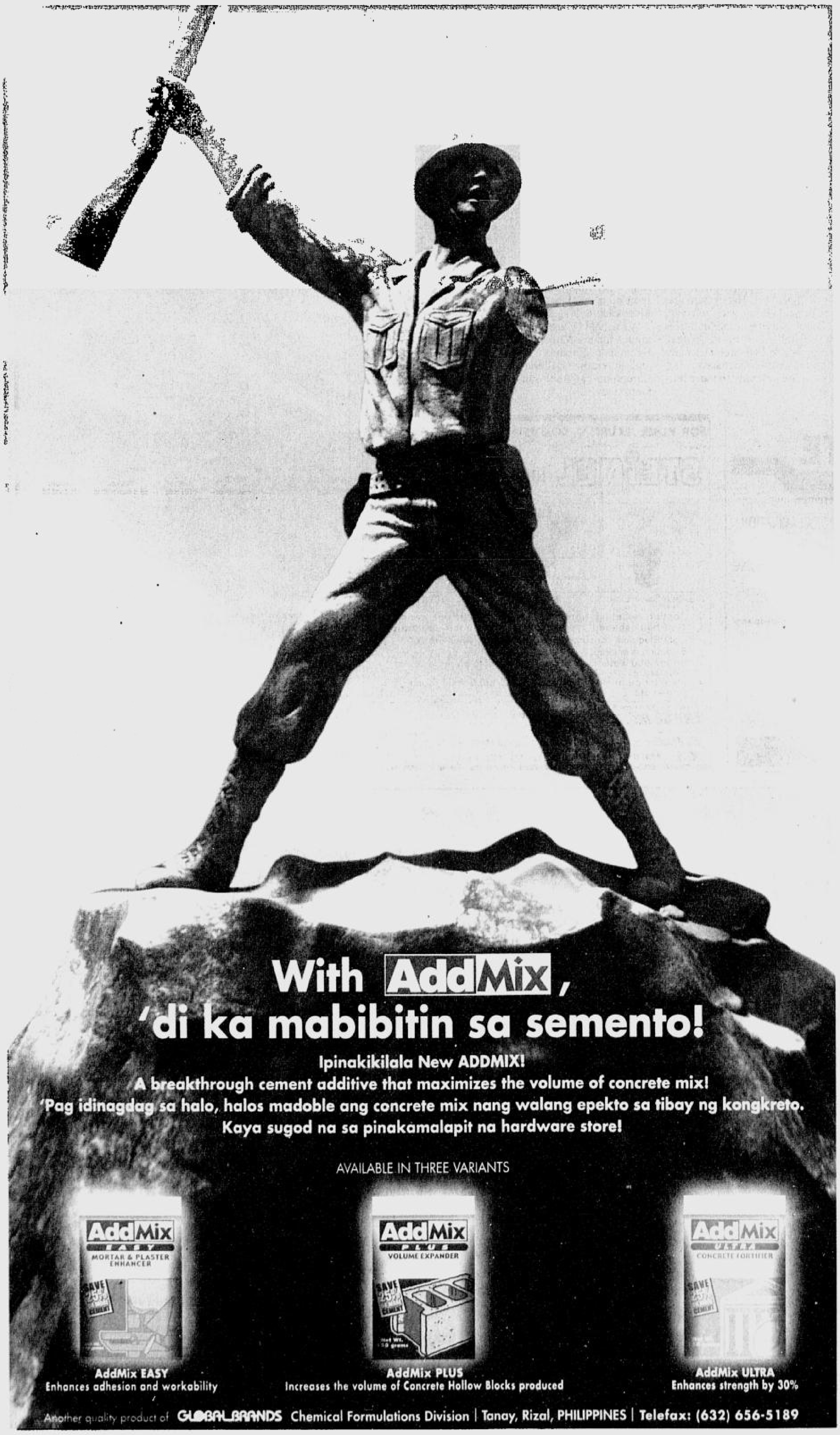
5 models

Montgomery has five models in the market ranging in size from 100 square meters which cost P7 million to 200 sq. m. (P12 million), with one covering 240 sq. m. that sold for P14 million.

The units can be expanded, albeit under tight development agreements, and come with a two-car garage.

To further differentiate itself from other townhouse developments, Montgomery put a lot of attention into the clubhouse, which it considers one of the best among the ALI projects.

Said Jugo: "We have also put security at the top of concerns because we are right in the middle of the city. We try to minimize open gates and focus on just two main entrances. We also have at least two roving guards aside from those posted at the gates."



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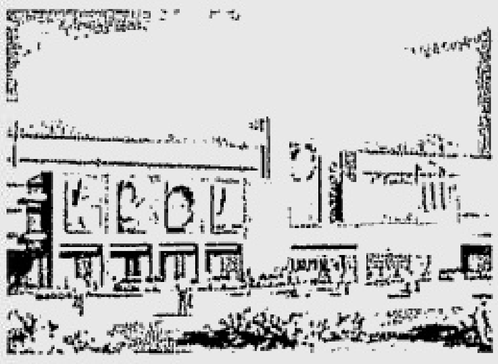


ROBINSONS Cainta

Robinsons mall to open in Cainta

ROBINSONS Land Corp. embarks on yet another exciting project: Robinsons Big R Supercenter Cainta.

Strategically located on Ortigas Avenue Extension, Cainta, Rizal, this mall is situated near the Junction, considered as the busiest crossroads in the area.

Expected for completion at the last quarter of this year, Robinsons Big R Supercenter, a three-level shopping mall, will be anchored by Handyman Do-It-Best hardware store, Big R Supercenter, a mass merchandise hypermart; and Robinsons Movieworld. Various shops, catering to a wide customer base, are expected to operate at the mall.

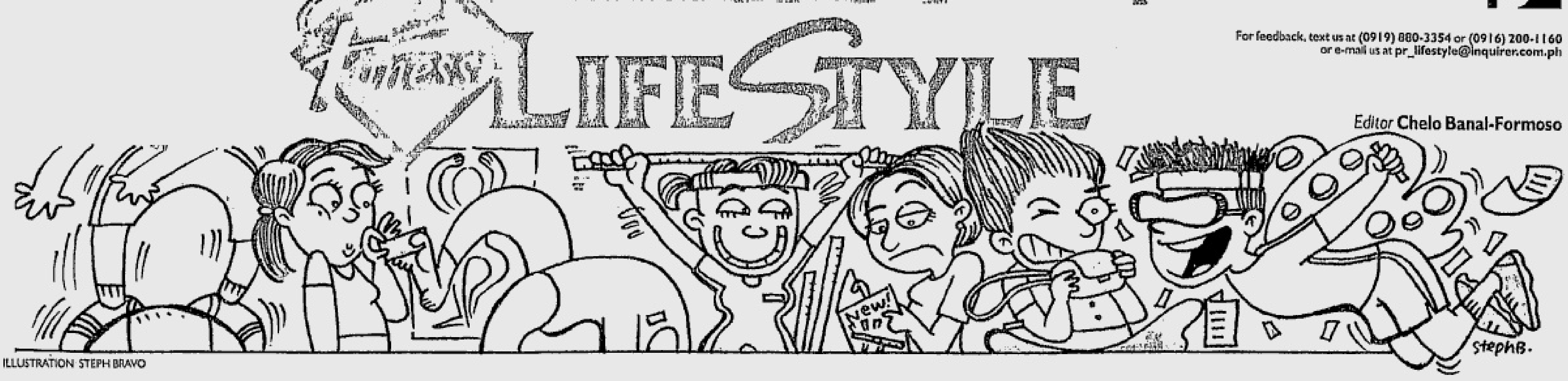
Complimenting this wide array are dining outlets, service centers and over a hundred different micro retail stores.

Micro retail concept

A fresh approach to shopping, the micro retail concept refers to targeted, thoughtfully packaged destinations that appeal to a given market segment.

New players in the market will have a chance to display their wares and services while shoppers get to enjoy shopping to the max. The mall's micro retail section is ideally located at the ground level of the mall.

Robinsons Big R Supercenter Cainta will certainly be a welcome addition to this thriving municipality, which is known for being the address of several industrial companies and middle-class residences.



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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

Trendwatch focuses on group exercises

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THIS year's Idea World Fitness Convention was the smallest in terms of attendance and number of exhibitors in the expo in the 14 years that I have been attending. This is not surprising, considering the SARS scare that just swept the entire globe. Nonetheless, the five-day event held last month at Anaheim, California still had a relatively large international presence. There were at least 15 Filipinos, myself included, who were there to get updated on the latest trends and techniques in fitness. The Japanese had an unusually large contingent. It was easy to spot them because they looked like a school of fish "swimming" in sync from one session to the other.

21-year-old group

Idea, organizers of the annual convention, is a 21-year-old international association of fitness professionals. It originally stood for International Dance Exercise Association but it eventually became an organization for group exercise instructors, personal trainers, athletic trainers, physical therapists, dance instructors, and mind-body instructors. So the acronym Idea was kept for brand recognition but it was no longer just for aerobic instructors.

It is during the World Fitness Convention that Idea presents its Trendwatch, an analysis of what is popular and not-so-popular by top fitness trainers and presenters in the industry. Idea has several categories for Trendwatch: Group Exercise, Personal Training, and Equipment. In today's column, I will share with you the Trendwatch results for group exercise, and next week, we will tackle the personal training and equipment categories.

The top three fitness goals of clients this year are balance, agility, and posture, according to the respondents of the Trendwatch survey.

This would explain why the top three fitness programs continue to be yoga, Pilates, and core conditioning/ab strength classes. These are the same classes that were popular last year but are still continuing to rise in popularity.

The convention had some clever combinations of yoga and Pilates on various types of balance apparatus like stability balls, foam rollers, the Reebok Core Board as well as the newest type of balance board, which is BOSU (it stands for "both sides up").

Try doing a Revolved Triangle with a stability ball. It gives a whole new meaning to the word balance, or I should say, lack of balance.

What is worrisome is that unless something dramatically different comes along next year, presenters may go too far in trying to come up with something innovative in yoga, Pilates, and core conditioning. Already, there were a few workshops trying to combine weight lifting and yoga. No, you are not supposed to carry weights while you do the asanas (but I wouldn't put it past some fitness presenter desperate to create something "original" in the future). Rather, weight-lifting exercises were alternated with yoga poses.

One particular workshop using a weighted bar (like a mini-barbell) was just so "trying hard" that many people walked out. Me, I stayed till the bitter end because I wanted to see just how much more ridiculous it could get. Good heavens, what is next? Disco Yoga? Latin Pilates?

Ramping

Many people were anticipating the unveiling of Gin Miller's Ramping at the convention, hoping that after a long dry spell, something totally new would emerge to excite the fitness industry. Gin Miller is the inventor of step aerobics, and 13 years ago, she made history when her creation became the number one-selling program all over the world. Today, people still love step aerobics because it delivers a consistently intense workout from start to finish. You can't fool the step bench by "cheating" when you are getting tired because you still have to go up and down the bench.

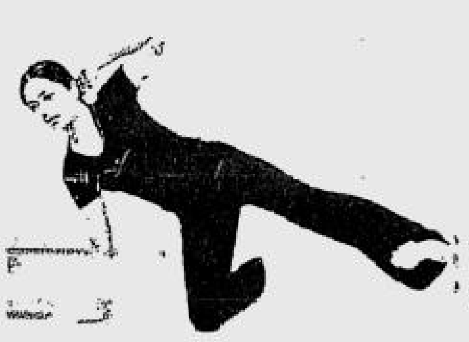
As of now, it's hard to predict whether ramping will catch on. The "ramp" is a fan-shaped platform that is slightly raised behind (you can adjust the height for a greater intensity). You lunge on and off it instead of stepping on and off a bench. Miller says she invented ramping for the de-conditioned market.

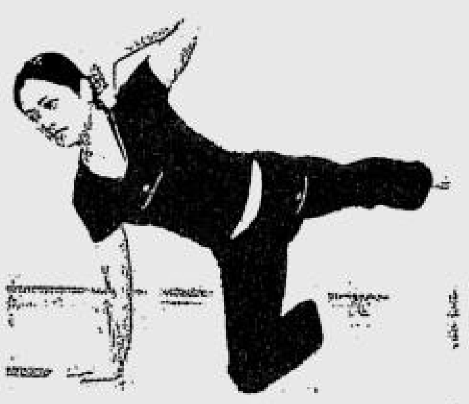
The music for ramping follows a six-count instead of the traditional eight-count used for other types of aerobics, so you can only use special ramping CDs to be able to do ramping classes. Like I said, it's hard to tell whether the ramp will be as successful as the step. But I

TRENDWATCH/D3

The top three fitness goals of clients this year are balance, agility and posture

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK





Kneeling side kick

THIS Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens the shoulder, trunk, hip, buttocks, front and back of the thighs while simultaneously stretching the buttocks, and front and back of the thighs.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Kneel on a mat with your legs together. Extend your right leg to the side and place your right hand behind your head.
2. Slowly lower yourself down and place your left hand on the mat.
3. Lift your right leg to hip level.
4. Flex your foot and slowly bring your leg forward, then point your foot and slowly bring your leg backward. This is one repetition.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions. Slowly straighten up.
6. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Inhale as you bring the leg forward; exhale as you bring the leg backward.
2. Move slowly and consciously. Do not swing the legs front to back in a fast motion.
3. Stabilize your torso by keeping your abdominal muscles contracted as you bring the leg forward and backward. If you are properly stabilized, the shoulder and elbow of the top arm will not move.
4. Check that your elbow is facing the ceiling to make sure that your spine is not bending forward or backward.
5. This is an advanced exercise. Modify it by lying on your side.

Repetitions:
Do five to 10 repetitions on each side.

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Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Are there many doctors accredited by MEDICard? Do I have to select from a list of physicians and am I limited to get consultations from them only?

MEDICard has more than 4,000 accredited doctors and specialists. In fact, we are known to hold one of the largest network of accredited medical service providers. Our healthcare program does not limit members to a specified doctor. In fact, they may see any accredited doctor of their choice, provided that he has been referred to that doctor by the medical coordinator. It is a requisite that members first see the coordinator of the accredited medical facility for all their required services.

Meet your MEDICard Team

After Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, Dr. Maria Theresa Carreon chose to specialize in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She took her specialization training at East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. For more than 6 years, she has rendered service to MEDICard members and declares that the HMO's program offers a comprehensive healthcare system for Filipinos. Doc Maria is also satisfied with the HMO's service to her as an affiliated healthcare provider. She enjoys spending most of her free time with her husband and their four children. Members may visit her for consultations at her clinic at St. Luke's Medical Center, Room 713 every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 PM, Wednesdays from 11 AM to 2 PM, and on Fridays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Contract Signing

FURUKAWA ELECTRIC AUTOPARTS PHILS. (FEAP), the country's pioneer manufacturer of steering roll connectors for car airbag systems signed its corporate healthcare program with MEDICard effective August 01 (Seated L-R) LUIS S. MONTOYA (MEDICard EVP & GM), DR. NICANOR D. MONTOYA (MEDICard President), FUJIO ABE (FEAP President) and NAOJI ANDO (FEAP Consultant). (Standing L-R) VOLTAIRE R. VICTORIA (MEDICard Mktg. & Sales Manager), PILAR ARANAS (MEDICard Account Executive), DR. RIZA RELOVA (MEDICard Retainer Doctor), AIELEEN LLANES (FEAP Company Nurse) and DENNY S. FERRER (FEAP HR & General Affairs Manager).

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

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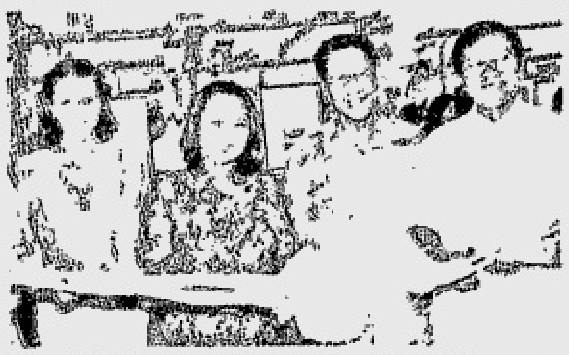


THE RIBBON snippers: Lana Asanin and Boracay's big three—Rep. Gabrielle Calizo, Edd Fuentes and Gov. Florencio Miraflores

BORACAY connection. Rep. Gabrielle Calizo, Bong Tirol and his wife Amanda Guidotti, Aurora de Guzman, Maggie and her vibrant mother Nenette Tirol of Expert Banks

FULL Circle Communications' Genny Nieva, IBM Philippines macho man Richard Burgos, Milen de Quiros, Edd Fuentes and Rene Nieva of Perceptions Inc.

THE PEARLS of Boracay: Greg Sanson with his daughter Rita, his wife Marilou, Louie Cruz and Sandro Rieta

The best of Boracay in a coffee-table book

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

CAN you imagine the fabi Boracay being transported to the city? Well, that's what happened at the fun, colorful launch of the first-ever coffee-table book about this magnetic island held at the posh The Podium, dahlings.

The eye-catching "Boracay Lifestyle" book, a brainchild of magnum publisher and PR king **Edd Fuentes**, no less, was launched with an exhibit featuring spectacular photographs of Boracay—from the hip, beautiful and partying pack on the fast lane, to the mesmerizing blue waters and the dramatic sunsets, plus so many other interesting info on what the island offers.

Breezing in, you'd think you were attending a happening on the beaches of Boracay itself, what with colorful lamps hanging all over, lush plants dotting the area and colorful beach outfits worn by tons of invitees.

Yummy cocktail finger food as well as smooth wines were being lapped up by the thirsty name-droppable and not-so-name-droppable personalities—celebrities from government, business, tourism and the entertainment sectors.

Needless to say, dahlings, there were invitees who paid more attention to the food, which they ate like it was their last meal, and drank wine till their faces were the same shade as the wine. Oh, well!

Arriving fashionably and on time—the way it should be, *palanggas*—were Citibank's country manager, brilliant fashion plate **Nina Aguas**; and marketing director, smart **Celine Fonacier**, both immediately grabbing copies of "The Boracay Lifestyle."

Other corporate personages included Louis Vuitton's top asset, country manager **Gigi Mabanta** with her husband, well-respected Col. **Jolly Mabanta**; Philips Consumer Electronics' secret weapon, **Elen Torres**; RMN Network's **Butch Canoy**; Virtusio Public Relations' **Romy** and **Lulu Virtusio**; ZMG Signium-Ward Howell's witty hotshot **J.J. Calero**; SM's vice president for communications, hardworking fashion gal **Millie Dizon**; my *palangga*, Lifestyle editor **Millet Mananquil**; British Airways' fabi gang of three: **Violet Echevarria**, eye-catching **Natakue Puey** and **Marissa Saavedra**; and Keppel Philippines' **Sin Wai Meng** and **Dennis Zee**; plus other Boracay followers like them.

Doing the must ribbon-snipping for the opening were hotshot Aklan Rep. **Gabrielle Calizo** and Aklan's so-amiable Gov. **Florencio Miraflores**, together with the books's cover girl, television personality, va-va-voom **Lana Asanin**, who arrived with her hot macho-looking date, **Kenny Evans**; and *moi, naturellement*.

Couldn't miss, too, Boracay's well-known islanders like White House Resort's **Bong** and **Amanda Tirol**, Seawind Resort's super couple **Joebert** and **Susan Cocjin**, Paradise Garden's **Chris Geiger** and the popular Sun Village Resort's well-liked **Elmer Ibabao**.

Also present were Boracay's regular beach lovers, including good-looking Bench endorser and actor **Jomari Yllana**, in-demand models, siblings **Raya** and **Robby Mananquil**, former senator **Francisco Tatad**, Citibank's **Abby Chan** and super secret weapon **Aneth Ng-Lim**, Development Corp.'s **Joji Monsod**, and the book's contributors and photographers, *palanggas*.

Hot, hot name-droppables from the world-class Fairways and Bluewater, one of the book's major sponsors, led by the dynamic vice president **Peng Perez de Tagle**, with **Dickie** and **Pinky Almazor**, **Jennifer Alonte**, **Ana Alegre**, **Adrian Flores**, and **Donabelle Teruel**, circulated till way past going-home time.

The jet-setting gang that sells Boracay to the world was also there in full traveling force, starting with the popular Summit World—Cebu Pacific's **Dorothy Bangayan**, SEAir's **Rachel Bautista**, Corporate Air's **Art Alejandro**, Asia Travel general manager **Nikki Rocha**, Sierra Tours' **Marilou Ngo**, Cordym Tours' **Celine Clemente**, Universal Holidays Inc.'s **Sheena Kamimura**, and New Horizon Travel's **Jen** and **Che Bejar**, plus tons of their other pals in the same business.

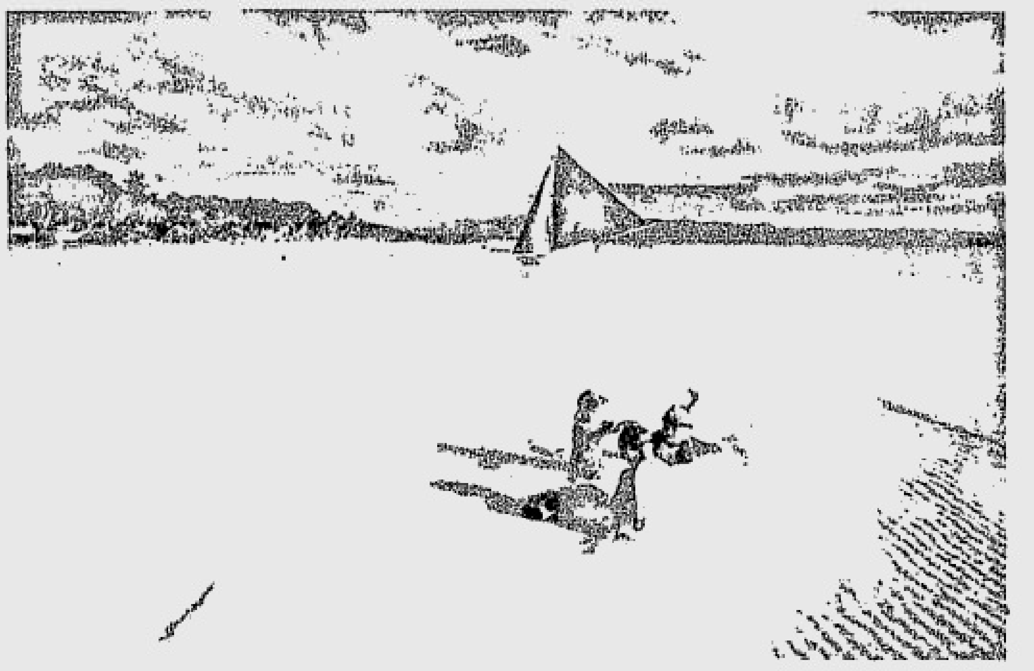
Now, who was that visitor who would push his way to be included in the shot every time guests were asked to pose?

One of the guests mentioned above told me of a true story while we rapped about traveling.

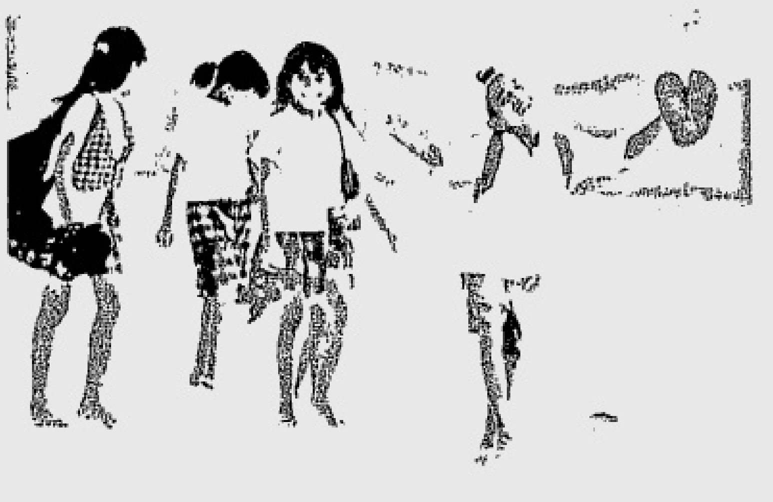
"I had this client who really beat the system." How?" I asked. "Well, he purchased a Go Now-Pay Later plan. And you know what, he never came back."

Now, there's one smart con dude, *palanggas*.

A colorful hardbound book on one of the world's best tropical beaches, 'Boracay Lifestyle' is a bouquet to a Philippine jewel



THE BEAUTY of Boracay photographed by popular George Tapan



AFTER school: "Hey, life is too short to get spent stuck in traffic," is what this kid seems to be saying. Photo by Arnold Jumpay

The Boracay Lifestyle

THE EYE-CATCHING book cover with Lana Asanin, photographed by Lester Ledesma

A 220-page colorful hardbound book on one of the world's best tropical beaches, "The Boracay Lifestyle" (also a perfect gift for those living abroad), features a collection of amazing photographs taken by the country's hottest photographers, together with interesting stories penned by hotshot writers and editors about the famous island's glamorous past, interesting people, unique cuisine and pulsating nightlife.

It's also a guide around the island, providing a listing of resorts, restaurants, shops and business establishments—everything that makes Boracay one of the most vibrant and swinging vacation spots in the world.

"The Boracay Lifestyle" is definitely a bouquet to a Philippine jewel. It's available at selected bookstores in Glorietta 2, Bibliarch in Glorietta 3, Fully Booked in Power Plant Mall, Ink & Stone at the Podium, Book Trends in UP Village, Solidaridad on Padre Faura, and Mag:net in Greenbelt 3 and The Loop.

To order this must-have coffee-table book, call Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. at 8939355 or 8163109; fax 8124797; or e-mail fuentes@pacific.net.ph or fpni@pacific.net.ph.

And remember, *palanggas*, a special discount will be given for bulk orders.

Joint beach bash

As always, dahlings, in Boracay, one's senses are enhanced compared to when you are in Cosmo-Manille.

More so when one celebrates his or her birthday in this exotic paradise surrounded by the calm, clear blue waters during the day and millions of clear, blinking stars at night.

Since tourists and local visitors enjoy the openness of island living, dynamic working Southern belle **Rita Sanson** and the renowned off-the-shoulder persona, **Louie Cruz**, decided to have a joint birthday bash at the popular and regal (also my favorite) Pearl of the Pacific Resort, owned by the well-respected parents of Rita, mega-business couple **Greg** and **Marilou Sanson**.

Although the celebrators' natal day fell on a weekday, the two decided to hold it on a glorious weekend, allowing their invitees to enjoy the luxury of a weekend break at the Pearl.

For extras, *palanggas*, an exciting mini fashion show displaying wow bodies, sculptured like the statues of David and Greek goddesses, was held.

Lots of "ooohs" and "aahs" came from the thrilled guests as the models sashayed back and forth, seemingly synchronized to the swaying of the palm trees, the cool wind blowing and the pulsating sounds all around. Perfectly choreographed by nature, *palanggas*.

Moi overheard one very visible persona, who had one too many drinks, whisper to a gorgeous female model his room number as she sashayed past him during the show. She smiled and completely ignored the offer, natch!

Not to be outdone, **Larry Leviste** "accidentally" dropped his room keys in front of a Brad Pitt look-alike model as he passed LL. This had most of the invitees, who noticed the "pick-up," howling and hooting with laughter.

Noticeably present were PR hotshot **Edd Fuentes** of Sun Village Resort, **Maida Ruaza**, **Danny Jota** and Ibiza boy **Tito Manapat**.

The shindig was so much fun, with guests seemingly uncaring about the day after, that most everyone partied on at Pier One and Cocomangas, where tequila flowed like tap water.

As one guest commented, "Who cares if I have a hangover tomorrow? I have nothing to do but lie on the beach, take a swim and chill out beautifully." Amen, dude!

Yes, *palanggas*, celebrating a birthday or whatever in Boracay is definitely the secret of life and the fountain of youth.

PRIMA ballerina Lisa Macuja photographed during a gorgeous sunset, by our very own Alex Van Hagen

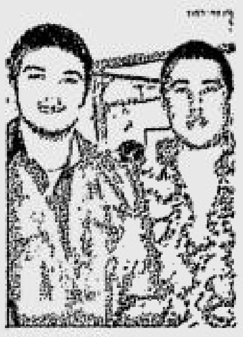
GEB Bilbao of the popular Fairways and Bluewaters

SO in love: Fairways and Bluewaters business magnate Peng Perez de Tagle with vivacious wife Vickie

THE JOINT celebrators: Rita Sanson and Louie Cruz with some of the models after the surprise mini beachwear fashion show

MEGA Col. Jolly Mabanta and vivacious Gigi Mabanta with Tess and Louie Vargas

SISTERS-in-law Annette Coronel Cruz and Candy Cruz



JOMARI Yllana with Sun Villages GM Elmer Ibabao

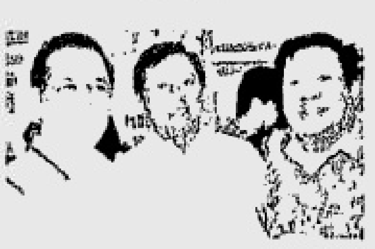
CITIBANK'S hotshot women: marketing director Cecille Fonacier and country manager Nina Aguas

THE SOUTHERN connection: Edgar Lopez, Sandro Rieta, Nonoy Campos and *moi*

BOOK buyers. Susan Cocjin, Lito Cruz, Joebert Cocjin and Butch Canoy

RITA flanked by Mon Mon Gonzalez and his wife Tweetie de Leon

SUPER buddies. Bong Daza and Monch Cruz with the birthday babe



FORMER senator Francisco Tatad, Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Art Alejandrino

BRITISH Airways marketing manager Natalie Puey, Sierra Tour's Marilou Ngo, BA sales manager Marissa Saavedra and country manager Violy Echevarria

Kris Aquino and her kissable Skin

By Belle V. Bondoc

The actress-TV host thanks her parents for giving her good skin and Kissa Papaya Soap for keeping it the way she wants it

WHILE good skin is an ideal for all women, Asian women also aspire for whiter and clearer skin. Thus, dozens of products for skin whitening and bleaching are popping up, and all seem to be doing well in the market.

Most of the products, especially the whitening soaps and creams, claim to produce the quickest effects. Although they can make users look like a moulting snake by causing unsightly peeling of the skin, the results can be rewarding.

Revolutionary product

Most skin whitening formulations work only superficially, which means bleaching the upper layer of the skin but leaving it unprotected from harmful elements. Thus even after repeated use, the skin can return to its natural color and, worse, even darken the complexion once the skin is exposed to the sun.

Kissa Papaya Plus Whitening Soap, from Dyson Laboratories Corp., is a revolutionary product that penetrates deeply into the skin with its unique Dual Lightening System.

Besides real papaya extract that gently and effectively whitens the skin, it contains Clair Blanche, a chemical made from all-natural plant extracts, combining the superior whitening abilities of root extracts from Peony, Scutellaria and Saxifraga Stolonifera. The same chemical has been found to prevent the formation of spots and freckles in sun-exposed skin by inhibiting the formation of melanin.

The other ingredients are BHA, the clarifying beta hydroxy acid that aids in lifting away dead surface skin, and Vitamin E for nourishing, to make skin softer and younger-looking. The ingredient works in harmony to offer superlative whitening benefits, while energizing, defending, moisturizing and protecting the skin from sun damage.

While sun-damaged skin tends to be drier, grainier and more leathery, combining the use of Kissa Papaya soap with Kissa Papaya Plus Lotion promises better results. The lotion is enhanced with sunscreen to protect the skin from the sun's deadly UV rays.

The makers of Kissa claim the product doesn't contain hazardous substances that may damage the skin, so that it can be used even on the face. Some fragrance has been added to enhance the whitening process.

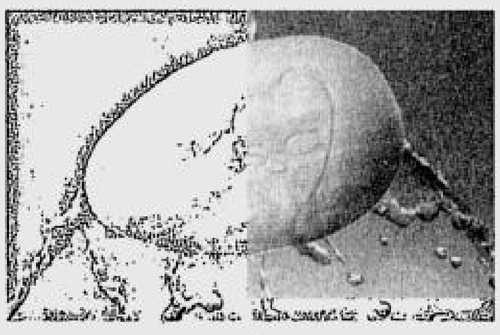
Budget-wise, the product is cheaper by 15 percent compared to the leading brand. The Kissa Papaya Plus Whitening soap retails at P38.50.

Kissa
Kissa
Papaya
whitening lotion

KISSA Papaya Whitening Lotion

AQUINO exudes radiance in her JC Buendia red halter-top at the press launch of her latest commercial at Annabel's Tomas Morato.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



KISSA Papaya Plus Whitening Soap

Effective endorser

Kissa Papaya Plus Whitening Soap has been in the market since December last year. So now Dyson Laboratories Corp. has opted to give its product a higher profile by getting a celebrity endorser.

Actress-television host Kris Aquino is tailor-made for the role with her radiant, glowing skin, according to the makers of Kissa.

In fact, many women envy her beautiful skin. With Kris using Kissa, they can now hope to have a complexion just like hers.

"I was very blessed to have a skin this white, *kasi pinanganak naman talaga ako na maputi.* I'm very thankful to my parents for that, but what Kissa can do for me is really to maintain the quality of my skin. For other people who want to improve their skin, it really whitens the skin. It's really a good product," Aquino says. She says she has tried the product she is endorsing, so she is speaking from experience.

Aquino says she relies on effective facial and skin care to maintain her looks. Since TV/movie personalities like her are exposed to the constant glare of klieg lights and the corroding effects of makeup, they have to rely primarily on soaps and moisturizers to keep their skin healthy and blemish-free.

Aquino knows what she wants to keep her skin glowing and constantly fresh-looking, and she believes Kissa will provide all the skin care she needs.

Kissa Papaya Plus Whitening Soap and Lotion are available in all leading department stores, supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

Kris Aquino will have a 'Kissa mall tour' on the following dates: Aug 9 (SM Megamall); Aug 16 (SM Southmall), Sept.13 (SM Manila); and Nov. 15 (SM City).

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com

A positive attitude in life

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

SO much to do, so little time. This is the common complaint of highly-empowered individuals. With more developments in the fields of medicine and wellness, one can certainly extend his or her sense of well-being.

For starters, why not learn about reflexology?

This discipline is based on the principle that reflex points or zones on the feet are connected to other points, organs and systems within the body.

A 45-minute session with George Tay, a popular Singapore-based reflexologist and special guest therapist at NEO Holistic Center (Wilson St., Greenhills, tel. 7256789) can literally jump-start your day.

By far, his US-trained technique called Ingham (named after Eunice Ingham, an American physical therapist who was responsible for increasing the popularity of what she referred to as reflexology) is the most unique of therapies I have ever experienced.

Egyptian in origin, reflexology detoxifies the body and promotes better blood and energy circulation.

"The secret of staying young is when the blood flows freely," says George, who flies to Japan and the Middle East regularly to service his high-profile clientele.

One sits or lies on a treatment couch while George follows a sequence of finger movements around the foot. If there is tenderness, discomfort or pain, it only means that a blockage is present and must be removed to create balance.

Because he likes challenges, George likes to work on stroke patients, whom he guarantees a better quality of life even with just one treatment.

If you are healthy, a reflexology session once a month for preventive maintenance is recommended because it can relax and soothe your system. If you are not well, see this specialist who intends to be in Manila more regularly.

"When I see improvement in my patients, I am happy because I know that God works through me," says George, who is not just a therapist but also a healer.

An anti-cellulite checklist

Here are some everyday dos and don'ts to follow to avoid developing unsightly and unhealthy cellulite:

- Eat fresh fruits, veggies, rice and beans daily.
- Add oily fish to your daily diet (like salmon, mackerel, sardines)
- If possible, consume organic food.
- Avoid drugs and hormone pills.
- Eliminate processed (canned, bottled, etc.) food and frozen meals.
- Drink 6-8 glasses of water daily.
- Take herbal teas.

Morning detox tea

1 c of warm water
1 tsp of fresh lemon juice
½ tsp honey

Sip slowly upon waking up in the morning.

And to further keep yourself in tiptop shape, follow these steps:

- Reduce salt and sugar intake.
- Exercise (daily brisk walking for 20 minutes is good).
- Adjust your posture. Don't cross your legs!
- Avoid stressful situations. Meditate.
- Do dry skin brushing (brushes for this are available at any health store). Brush from toes to neck after a bath. This promotes better circulation.
- Moisturize your skin twice a day.
- Do deep breathing exercises.
- Smile.

Attitude rules

How you greet a new morning determines the outcome of the rest of your day.

Do these when you wake up:

- Before you open your eyes, as you lie between wakefulness and sleep, invoke goodness by saying "I invite goodness to fill my day."
- When you open your eyes, declare "It will be a good day for me."
- Stand up and open your arms and claim "Goodness is with me now."
- During the day, do a good deed, an act of kindness or charity, and you will feel good about yourself. That's a guarantee.

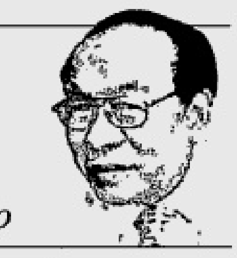
Love & light!

Reminder to all friends and benefactors of Tuloy Streetchildren Village: Benefit lunch on Aug. 12 (Tuesday) 12 noon with special guests Gary Valenciano, Ara Mina and Alma Concepcion. Call Tuloy at 7750484.

Reader reactions to Filipino time

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco



I SUGGESTED something very modest in last week's column to effect a revolution in the consciousness and awareness of the people. Let's be on time in everything we do, I said. I know it sounds like a joke, but it will surely have a profound repercussion if followed by at least 51 percent of the country's population. Then hopefully, consciousness will gradually change for the rest of the people.

I had fun reading the varied reactions of readers to that suggestion. Here are the highlights of the above readers' reactions.

Linear vs circular time

"I really find what the German lately told you not only to be true but also filled with German humor: 'It is un-Filipino of you to be on time.' I have been residing in Germany for four years. The 'German time' that we have all the time heard about is true to some extent, until you rely on the Deutsche Bahn (German Railways) as a means of transportation. Lately, there have been lots of complaints over train delays.

"I had a very interesting discussion about the different concepts of time with my British and Indian colleagues. My Indian colleague now based in UK pointed out that the Indian's concept of time is circular, while the Western's is linear. I believe this is true in most Eastern countries, including the Philippines.

"Life is multi-dimensional, not linear. The linear concept of time suggests that once time has gone, it is gone forever. This concept talks of missed opportunity and mistakes, sometimes irreparable ones. It views life as a series of problems to be solved within some reasonable time frame.

"In contrast, the circular or spiral concept of time suggests continuity. This concept preaches lessons to be learned and second chances. Hence, we continue to commit the same mistakes until we learn our lessons.

"Filipinos will find difficulty changing our attitude towards time unless we understand our roots. The definition of development and wealth that is planted in our minds is very Western in nature. The law of economy that rules the world is based also on Western thinking.

"This circular or spiral concept of time is nothing new to us. We have in fact heard this from our ancestors. But we have lost so much of our heritage because of the Spanish occupation for over 300 years and a very strong American influence from the beginning of the 20th century up to the present.

"The definition of time that we are following now is the linear concept of the West. But we need to understand our roots or heritage in order to know our Filipino self." —Justin Nacar

Impossible to change

"I totally agree with you about the need to change the Filipino's consciousness. But right now it seems impossible to do so. How can you do this to a whole country which has been in such a (low) level of consciousness for so long? Even in our own small circle, it is difficult to change another's person's consciousness unless he or she is willing to do so.

"Even if we start with the children, it will fail because they will not see the new consciousness in the adults they encounter."—Susan Ocampo

Confusing times

"There's a little problem with your suggestion. Even if all Filipinos decide to strictly be on time starting tomorrow morning, they will not know how to get the right time.

"I have many times observed that radio stations announce proudly that the time now is 10 o'clock while in fact it is 9:50.

"In one five-star hotel I saw on the wall five clocks giving five different time zones, with the long hand pointing to five wrong positions.

"My suggestion is that all TV and radio stations should be forced (by law) to broadcast one national time signal at the top of the hour, and this time signal should be synchronized with the BBC or obtained from the world clock (Universal Time). At least that's a start that can easily be executed.

"To end this in a positive note: This is one of the best (if not the best) countries in the world to retire in, when being on time is not important anymore!"—Ben Keultjes, Zarraga, Iloilo

Obsessed with time

"I couldn't agree more with your analysis of the current situation in our country. I found it amusing that you even suggested the very basic etiquette of being on time. I have been obsessive with being on time for as long as I can remember. I don't even care whether the people I'm meeting are those who are perennially late, I make sure I'm there 15 minutes early.

"Sometimes the Filipino time takes a toll on me and I backslide, getting tired of being on time when others intentionally show up late. Sometimes I even think that my obsession with being on time is a psychological disease—a disease I don't intend to cure." —Rommel de Leon, Chicago, U.S.A.

Thank you for your candidness. I appreciate that. If I may make a little confession, the whole thrust and ultimate objective of this column, from the very beginning, was to expand and raise the level of consciousness or awareness of the readers. Paranormal and psychic phenomena are really incidental to, or merely a means towards that basic objective. But I never really expected everybody to see that.

Note: Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Trendwatch focuses on group exercises

From page D1

would not count Miller out. It took her a couple of years in the late '80s to develop her step program until she had a major breakthrough in the 1990 World Fitness Convention, and she hasn't looked back since.

'Strange' program

Another new and "strange" aerobic program that was introduced was the "Windjector." The best way to describe this is to imagine that you are wearing large wings like a butterfly. The wings are made of plastic and have varied shaped holes cut into them. The Windjector creates resistance as you move your arms while going through a typical low-impact routine. Standing in front of presenters, you could actually feel the air blowing through your hair because of the wind that they were creating.

Runner-ups in the category of "very popular and increasing over last year" are: stretching classes, group strength training, indoor cycling, and boot camp classes.

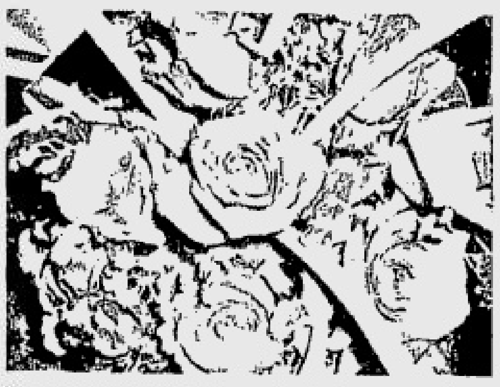
The fitness programs that are solidly entrenched in gyms but are not increasing or decreasing in popularity are low-impact and step aerobics. These are like the bread-and-butter staples of any group exercise program.

The fitness program that almost all gyms have but is not as popular as last year is kickboxing. This was also the analysis of last year's Trendwatch, which means that kickboxing has slid even lower down the totem pole. The theory is that there is an inverse relationship between the rise in kickboxing related injuries and the decline in its popularity. If this is true, then we might expect the same result in a couple of years with regards to yoga and Pilates. Jeff Frick, CEO of Fitness & Wellness Insurance Agency, told Shirley Archer of Idea Magazine that yoga- and Pilates-related injuries and insurance claims are on the rise among Idea members. In her article, "The Pilates and Yoga Training Debate," Archer observes, "An increase in reported injuries is natural as any activity grows in popularity, simply because of the greater volume of participation." I would also add, because of the greater number of instructors trying to teach beyond their level of expertise to beginners who have no business being in an advanced class in the first place. Yoga and Pilates may be considered gentler forms of exercise compared to kickboxing, but you can get just as injured.

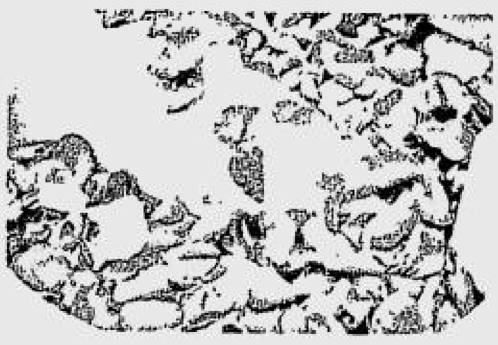
For past articles and exercises or topics for future articles, go to {HYPERLINK "http://www.tinajuanfitness.com"}www.tinajuanfitness.com.

ALONE BUT NOT LONELY.

FIT FOR A QUEEN. Good Housekeeping's Becky Kho luxuriates in Emphasis salon's royal treatment.



JUST AS LOVELY. From the bedroom to the bathroom to the salon (foot spa bath at Emphasis, below), guests are showered with roses.



A wonderfully wicked weekend for women

Check out the Peninsula Manila's indulgence package and you'll never fly, sail or drive far for some pampering again

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral

WHAT does a woman want?

Let's see: A fulfilling and rewarding career. Unlimited shopping money. Discounts, bargains and sales. Then, a man who pampers her. Who brings her flowers. Who gives her soothing rubdowns. Who massages her feet after a long day. Who likes to cuddle...

Sure, but no woman is so deluded as to even think she could possibly have all those things. Sometimes, what she really wants may not even be complicated: Perhaps a weekend just to herself, with no husband/boyfriend, no kids, no deadlines to think about. A day-and-a-half of getting the royal treatment, with no expectations, no commitments, no strings attached. For once, a time to put her needs first before everyone else's.

Total bliss

The Peninsula Manila's creative movers recently invited 10 women, including this writer, to sample The Peninsula Indulgence, and it felt like the answer to every woman's wish.

The new package offering is a weekend of total bliss offered exclusively to women who want a break from it all without having to leave the city. No long drives or taxing flights, thank you very much.

On a Friday, I checked at noon into one of the hotel's luxurious rooms on its exclusive ladies-only floor. I had an hour-and-a-half to settle in before my facial treatment at Institut Clarins, so I unpacked my overnight bag, sank onto the sofa, found the remote and leisurely nibbled on the Pen's heavenly chocolates. There were even gifts from Clarins and Emphasis waiting to be unwrapped. Hmmm, I was beginning to love the weekend...

Gentlest hands

After being chauffeured to Institut Clarins in Rustan's Makati, I prepared to have my face pricked and poked at by some sadistic therapist. However, Clarins' genial head therapist, Maricel, looked hardly wicked.

After determining my skin type, she reassured me that no pricking or anything of the sort would take place. She had to train for a year-and-a-half before she was qualified to administer Clarins' services.

Comfortably tucked under terrycloth sheets, with a soothing heating pad on my back, Maricel got down to business, patiently explaining what she was doing to my face. Her expert hands gently patted, kneaded, stroked my face until I began to feel like I was being rocked into dreamland. It was *sooo* gentle that a food columnist later swore she had become a Clarins convert.

After the gentle face treatment, Maricel applied more pressure on my tensed shoulder muscles for a truly revitalizing massage.

Having skipped lunch, I had only one thing in mind next: food. The package included afternoon tea, cocktails and breakfast at the Pen's Club Lounge. I went on to demolish a good amount of yummy cucumber sandwiches, but chose to skip the cocktails and took a nap instead. At dinner, I learned everyone opted to do the same. No pressures, remember?

IT'S ONLY FOOD, NOT LOVE... But what's not to love with a masterfully prepared feast at the hotel's Old Manila restaurant? The Indulgence guests, enjoying their after-dinner coffee with more sinful chocolates, beam insatiety.

Girl talk

Over a delightful candlelit dinner prepared by Old Manila executive chef Gerhard Doll, all of us 10 women, our Pen hosts and some of Rustan's' and Emphasis' execs engaged in a lively girl talk: okay, politics, stretch marks, stilettos, and gossip, gossip, gossip. Sure, there were men at the table, but they knew that with at least two thinking women in the same room some male-bashing was bound to ensue, no thanks to an overflow of red wine.

By 11 p.m., some decided to have a nightcap. I begged off and looked forward to hitting the sack instead. Okay, that was a lie—I had a date with the idiot box.

Back in my room, I felt like I had walked into a tragically funny scene from some sappy flick. The bathroom was dimly lit and strewn with fragrant red rose petals; there was even a warm drawn bubble bath. Wow, a roomful of roses and the girl was alone! It was comforting to know I'd have the Pen's Pageboy Teddy Bear by my bedside. Okay, that's another lie, but I never believed I'd get my three wishes in one night anyway.

Head-to-toe treat

I woke up fully rested, had some muesli and fresh fruits from the Club Lounge's wonderfully healthy breakfast spread, already anxious to go down the basement for my head-to-toe treatment at Emphasis. I knew what to expect with the hot oil: soft, shiny hair and a relaxing back rub. The foot spa sounded nice, too, but, being ticklish, I was apprehensive. I gently warned Manolo, the therapist, about the ticklish feet, and he seemed amused. Soon after he had soaked my feet in a rose-petal bath, I began to relax and just sank into the luxurious scrubbing and moisturizing. Sure, some foot jerking ensued, but salon assistant Allan's invigorating back and shoulder massage did, from time to time, tear my attention away from it—like two men vying for my favor (that said at the risk of sounding like a pathetic daydreamer).

Indulgence guests are also provided a personal shopper for a unique shopping tour of Rustan's, and get to enjoy 5-10-percent discounts on Rustan's exclusive labels. That I had to skip, however, like most of the guests, because I had a root canal scheduled that afternoon. So there, back to earth—pain, pressures and all!

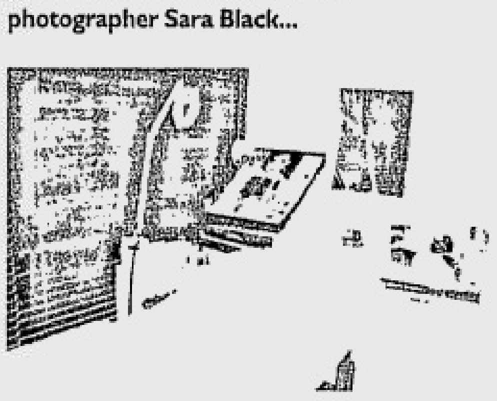
The Pen Indulgence is something every woman who feels she deserves some pampering (you know, the kind she doesn't have to wish or beg for) ought to try. It's the answer to (almost) everything she wants. For the often-neglected woman, even "almost" ought to sound good.

The Peninsula Indulgence package starts at $195++. Guests can choose between the Clarins or Emphasis treatment, and avail of a 15-percent discount on massages at The Peninsula Spa or en suite. Call 8872888 local 2100.

WINES AND ROSES. Designer Michi Calica-Sotto (center) engages Lourdes Juco, The Pen's director of sales (left), and fellow guest, lawyer Katrina Legarda, in an animated conversation.

THE HOSTS. David Batchelor, The Pen's GM; Hans Hordijk, resident manager; and Mariano B. Garchitorena, director of public relations

BEAUTY, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH. Institut Clarins head therapist Maricel gives her recommendations to model-photographer Sara Black...



... and pampers guests in Clarins' comfortable treatment rooms.

TAKE ME TO THE... Becky Kho is brought to Rustan's Makati in a chauffeured luxury sedan.

HER HAVEN. A luxurious retreat on a ladies-only floor with rose-scented hallways

DIGITAL PHOTOS BY CHECHE MORAL WERE TAKEN USING FUJI FINEPIX F401

BRIGHT START. The Club Lounge's beautifully laid-out healthy breakfast treats